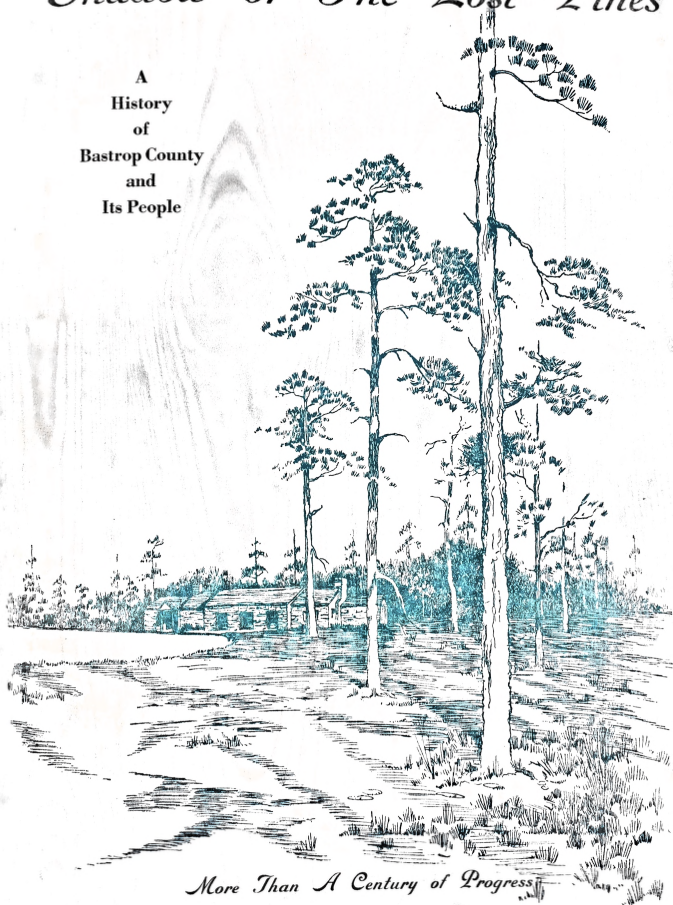


In The
Shadow of The Lost Pines

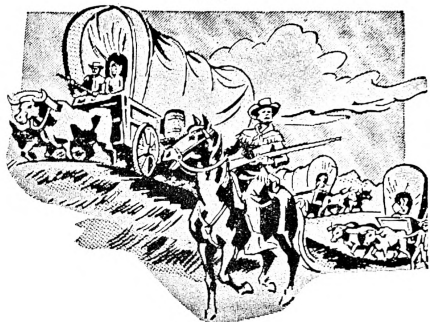
A
History
of
Bastrop County
and
Its People



More Than A Century of Progress

In The Shadow of The Lost Pines

A History of Bastrop County And Its People



Published in recognition of more than 125 years of progress, from the beginning of the first settlement in the 1820's through the present time.

DEDICATED

To the people of Bastrop, whose forbears painted the background of colorful history contained in the pages of this book.



"The Oldest Weekly Newspaper In Texas"

BASTROP, TEXAS

1955

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In The Shadow of The Lost Pines

Former Bastropian Writes Of Fascinating Early Days In Old Town

Taken from the Austin American-Statesman
October 17, 1937

By Kate Jenkins Dechard

About 30 miles southwest of Austin the town of Bastrop snuggles down between the pine-clad hills on the east and the winding Colorado river on the west and seems quietly listening to the voices of 105 years of existence. For Bastrop celebrated its centennial on June 24, 1931.

Hundreds of years ago the wild beasts and the Red Men crossed the river and rested in the shade of the trees and climbed the hills where Bastrop now stands. They made paths through the wilderness that the Frenchman and the Spaniard, the priest and the adventurer, the soldier and the colonist later followed.

One such path became known as El Camino Real—or the Old San Antonio road. Just when the path became a road is hard to say, but for many years it was one of the main arteries of travel and played an important part in the development of Texas.

At the crossing of the road on the Colorado River there grew a town first called Mina, then Bastrop.

What were some of the voices that were heard in the long ago and what do they tell of the part Bastrop had in building this Texas with its far-flung boundaries and immense resources?

There were the cries of wild animals that roamed through and around where the old town is now. There were the war whoops of the savages and the chants of the priests. There were the sounds of soldiers marching and the commands of officers in the Spanish guard, housed in the Puesta Del Colorado early in the 19th century.

The old town listened with joy to the creak of the immigrants' wagons which was heard with more and more frequency after Mexico won her independence and the old stockade was abandoned by the Spanish soldiers.

The people who as early as 1830 began settling around the Colorado crossing of the San Antonio road were for the most part American men seeking homes for their families.

Immigrants came into the country as a part of the colonization enterprise of Impresario Stephen F. Austin, arrangements for which were made in 1827.

The hardships these people suffered were those of a new country infested with savages, poor means of communication and long distance from supplies.

Few people, who at Thanksgiving or Christmas ask for "a little more of the white meat, please", think that the delicious breast of a turkey could serve as bread, but in 1829 the four or five families in what is now Bastrop County used it for just that. It was made necessary when the wagons sent to the Brazos, the nearest trading post, for supplies failed to come back as scheduled because of a long wet spell that made it impossible for the wagons to get through.

However, they planted corn at the earliest possible time so that they would have grain for meal. A mortar and pestle served as a grist mill to grind the corn.

Buckskin served many purposes in this pioneer settlement. Among other things it served for harness, chains and ropes, but woe to the careless ones who left the ropes and such out at night! The coyotes ate them!

In spite of hardships and the prospect of Indian attacks, most of the settlers soon were accustomed to the ways of the wilderness and began to enjoy life.

It was in the war whoop and the stealthy tread of the Indians that the old town recalls most of the tragedy of those early days.

That which came to the John Holland Jenkins family in 1833 is typical of what all the pioneers faced and often experienced. Jenkins tells the story of his father's death thus:

"He (Edward Jenkins) was fast getting a comfortable start and owned a good many cattle. Our home was improved and we were just beginning to enjoy life when he was murdered.

"One morning he went out to look after some stock. He did not come back, but was found by some friends, killed and scalped, sitting under a large pecan tree out in a corn field.

"I, a lad of 10, was left the main support of my mother, two younger brothers and a sister."

The records of the grants of land made to families in June, 1831, in the Department of Brazos, Division of Mina (as a vast tract of land in Austin's little Colony and including what is now Bastrop and Bastrop County was officially de-

Bastrop County History A Collection Of Articles And Stories

The Bastrop Historical Society and Bastrop Advertiser have attempted in this edition to bring together in one book as many articles and stories relative to the history of Bastrop County and Bastrop County people as we could find.

Many of these articles have been published in previous editions of the Advertiser and elsewhere, and since they are reprints, we have not attempted to change them or bring them up to date, but in these cases, we have been careful to designate the year in which such articles formerly appeared.

For the same reason, many articles overlap in information, and in order to preserve their originality, we have left them just as they were.

On the other hand, many articles are current, written by Bastrop citizens, or by members of our staff, concerning current history, or recording present organizations and events. To these people who have helped us so much, both in actual writing and in their contributions of information, we are deeply grateful.

signed) reveal the names of many who lost one or more members of their families at the hands of the savages. Among these may be mentioned the Alexanders, Dutys, Gotiers, McDonalds, Weavers, Wilbargers, Ingrams, Strauthers, Rogers, Nashes, Lentzes, Edwards, Egglestons, Haggards, Martins, Colemans and Burlesons.

The records in the land office in Austin, and translations in the county clerk's office in Bastrop, show that as early as January, 1826, this division of Mina had been created.

In 1839 Austin, in Bastrop County then, was made the capital of Texas. But in January, 1840, Travis County was created by legislative enactment out of the territory taken from Bastrop County. This took away from Bastrop County all but 928 square miles, of which the town of Bastrop is approximately the center. Travis County extended to where the city of Abilene now stands and thus embraced about 400,000 square miles—nearly the area of Tennessee. By creation of new counties this territory was cut down until Travis County became its present size.

While controversy was taking place over the name and boundaries of the old town and county new sounds were being heard—the ring of the ax and saw—sounds necessary in the founding of a commonwealth. The pioneers were fortunate in having an abundance of building material near at hand. The cedar brakes north of town and the "Lost Forest" of pines to the east and south were blessings not only to those in and around Bastrop but to those of the entire southwest.

The first houses were usually built of logs, oak and hickory trees often furnishing the material. The roofs were made of pine boards, hand sawed.

One such house in Bastrop is the Johnson place, one of the oldest within the city limits. It is the birthplace of the late Judge Robert L. Batts of Austin.

The growth of pines near Bastrop has long puzzled scientific minds. This is the only forest of pines found west of the Trinity river.

The Bastrop forest furnished lumber not only for the immediate neighborhood, but wagons came from far away, even from Mexico, for the building material.

Mrs. Blanche Higgins Duval Meyers of Bastrop, daughter of Jacob Higgins who came to Texas in 1840 and bought a partnership in the Bastrop Pinery from Abner Cook, says that she remembers when the wagon trains would come for lumber from Monterrey, Mexico, which was paid for in yellow Mexican dollars.

Mr. Higgins' partner, Col. Abner Cook, as he was called, soon sold out to him and moved to Austin in the '40's. He built his home of Bastrop pines on what is now Colorado Street, where it still stands, housing Ye Quality Shoppe, owned by Miss Fannie Andrews.

But soon a new sound intruded this peaceful

settlement. Back in the 1830's when the old town was getting its log cabins built the rumble of guns of the Texas revolution was heard. Bastrop takes pride in what her sons did in these troublous times.

Bastrop was the first place to organize a committee of safety in May, 1835, and other towns followed suit. The avowed purpose of the organization was for the protection of the citizens against savages, but the committee could and did collect and disseminate information, secure arms and ammunition and when necessary call out and drill militia.

On this committee were such men as Samuel Wolfenbarger, who was the first alcalde of Bastrop; J. W. Bunton, B. Manlove and Ed Burleson.

Bastrop and representatives at the consultation on the Brazos, at San Felipe, sent J. W. Bunton, Thomas Gazeley and Robert Coleman to the convention which framed the constitution.

History records the deeds of Gen. Edward Burleson, Capt. Jesse Billingsley and other soldiers from Bastrop.

With the guns from the revolution the old town heard the noise and confusion of the first runaway scrape, as the stampede of the women and children before the Mexican army after the fall of the Alamo was called.

Hastily loading everything they could in wagons, on horseback and on foot the frightened people around Bastrop left for the eastern part of the state and safety.

Again Jenkins in his reminiscences gives specific information about Bastrop's part in this flight. He was only a lad in his 15th year, but he had been the head of his family since the death of his father at the hands of the Indians five years before. He begged so hard to be allowed to join Capt. Billingsley's company when it had camped near his home enroute to Gen. Burleson's forces in the Burnham neighborhood that his mother finally consented. His going left her with three little children, as her second husband, James Northcross, a Methodist minister, had already gone and was with the defenders of the Alamo, where he perished.

After the fall of the Alamo, Gen. Burleson detailed Jenkins and several others to go and help the families to places of safety.

Some of the trials these people encountered in their flight across the state were rain and mud, swollen rivers. It took the party Jenkins was helping one whole day to go four miles in the Brazos bottom, for wagons would bog down and women would have to get out and walk, women with babies in their arms, sometimes walking waist-deep in mud and water.

But even this had its humorous touch. Jenkins declares that not only did the wagons bog down, but "one excellent lady, a Mrs. Wilson, who was rather fat, bogged down, too, and had to be pulled out."

After crossing the Brazos bottom, Jenkins and three others went back to Bastrop to collect the cattle and drive them out of reach of the Mexicans who were steadily approaching. After rounding up some stock near Bastrop, Jenkins and another young boy were left in charge of the herd just across the river west of Bastrop, while the other men went on down the Old San Antonio road to round up more cattle.

The next morning before daybreak the two boys saw what they took to be a Mexican scout approaching and later the whole Mexican army, so they thought, came into sight. They hastily took to the river bottom to hide, when to their consternation the whole army took after them. Concealed the best they could manage, the boys awaited their enemies.

But the scout proved to be a Delaware Indian from the far north who knew nothing of the revolution but who had a very fine load of beaver hides, and the "Mexican Army" was the herd of cattle the men had collected and were driving out of the country.

One of the men in the party kept hurrying the others, saying that he knew the Mexicans were close behind, because he "smelled" them. He was right, for "Three-legged Willie", as Col. Robert M. Williamson was called, who was left in Bastrop with a small force to protect the place, was driven out by Cos's army following close on the heels of the men driving the cattle. Cos's men burned two houses and took possession of everything of value in the town.

News of the battle of San Jacinto and of the capture of Santa Anna reached the "run-aways" soon after they had crossed the Brazos river. Some few, doubtful and discouraged, went on East to safety, but the majority returned to their homes in the wilderness. Among them was Jenkins' mother, twice widowed by the misfortunes of the new country.

Those returning had to start out all over, but they did it with a will and higher courage because the land was now their own.

From time to time, however, the Indians would go on a rampage and women and children would gather in the old stockade for protection while the men went out to fight.

When Woll invaded Texas, the people of Bastrop had their second "run-away scrape". They took their cattle and went to Washington-on-the-Brazos, but experienced nothing like the hardships of their first such adventure.

The old town listens with undisguised pride to the roll call of heroes who made the great sacrifice at the Alamo, some 10 or more, and of those who fought at San Jacinto. The ill-fated Santa Fe expedition took toll of the county, as did the Mier expedition. Some of them, like William Mosby and Nicholas Eastland, drew a black bean at Salado.

During these trying times, the people of the county took consolation in religion. The old town heard the prayers, the singing and the exhortations of God-fearing men and women, whose faith helped them bear the trials and tribulations and sorrows of the new country. Even in 1833, while the Catholic religion was the nominal one in Texas and Coahuila, the first Protestant sermon in the county was preached in the home of Robert Coleman, just across the river. In the homes and under trees, God's word was preached.

Along with the sound of the praying and singing came the ringing of the school bell. Among those early teachers were the dignified but eccentric Nelson Burch in his long black coat; the Englishman, William Nicholson; Mrs. Paine and her adopted daughter, Keziah Depelchin, from Madiera. Miss Depelchin later founded the Depelchin Faith Home in Houston.

One eminent man coming to Bastrop in 1851 because of its reputation for good schools and culture was David Sayers, the father of the late Gov. Joseph D. Sayers. Joseph was 10 years old at the time his family moved to Bastrop.

Thus the old town claims as a "favorite son" "Honest Joe" Sayers. All that is necessary to justify Bastrop's pride in him is to recall his record, how he, a staunch democrat, led his party and shaped its policies for years as an astute man, governor and a member of the board of pardons.

Besides being Bastrop's leading physician for many years and giving the state a governor, Dr. Sayers gave two native born children to Texas who served well, the late Sam S. Sayers, for many years a clerk in the state land office and chief clerk at the time of his death, and Miss Jessie Sayers, educator of note, professor of mathematics in the Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos.

The school that helped to produce Joe Sayers and other leaders of Texas was the famous academy established by the Methodist conference in 1851. W. J. Hancock was its first principal.

The Carriers of Maine were instrumental in moving the Kentucky Military Institute to the academy, which then became the Texas Military Institute. Col. R. T. P. Allen ("Rarin, Tarin, Pitchin Allen"), according to the boys) and his son, Maj. Robert Allen, were in the school when Joseph Sayers graduated and Gov. Sam Houston presented him and others of the graduating class with their diplomas. The Allens later founded Allen Academy at Bryan.

Once more ominous sounds were to be heard in Bastrop. When the sounds of Civil War reached the old town, the county held a convention and voted by a majority of 66 not to secede, according to the minutes of the convention which are now the property of Mrs. A. B. McLavy of Bastrop, whose husband was given the minutes by Judge Dyer Moore when the old courthouse, built in 1853 was burned on New Year's morning, 1883.

Mr. McLavy added the note to the minutes that the result of the vote, in his opinion, was due to the fact that George Washington Jones, an eloquent lawyer and ardent federalist, had spoken against secession.

However, when Texas seceded and joined the Confederacy, Col. "Wash" Jones (as he was best known in Bastrop) took command of the company that was composed of all the able-bodied men and boys in the county and the entire student body and faculty of the Texas Military Institute.

A roster of the Terry Rangers and other Confederate companies shows numbers of Bastrop men in the ranks and as officers. There are Burger, Rice, Nicholson, Jenkins, Hill, Moncure, Dechard, Gill, Dawson and Petty among them. It is impossible here to record all of them, but the T. C. Cain Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, while honoring all the men who went out from the vicinity, memorializes the services of one of Bastrop's most loved men, T. C. Cain and his brother, Will, who were captains in the Confederate army.

What retrospect of the old town would be complete without hearkening to the voice of these two brothers? For this voice was none other than the Bastrop Advertiser, the second oldest newspaper in the state.

This newspaper, except a slight period of inactivity during the Civil War, has functioned as a weekly for more than 75 years.

In 1853, Will J. Cain, 19, and his brother, T. C. Cain, 17, established the Advertiser, and although paper had to be brought from Houston in ox wagons part of the time and the wagons were often delayed, the paper came out each Thursday even if it had to be printed on wrapping paper as was the case once or twice, according to T. W. Cain of Austin, son of T. C. Cain.

The Advertiser office was burned during the war and the files destroyed. Thus was lost much valuable data concerning the decade before the war.

After the war the brothers bought second-hand type in Belton and began to print the paper again. In 1874, T. C. Cain bought his brother out and edited it alone until his son, T. W. Cain, was old enough to help. Not until 1921 did the paper pass out of the hands of the Cain family. Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Standifer are the editors at the present time.

Another voice that spoke through the pages of the Advertiser was that of Emma Holmes Jenkins, journalist, educator, club and church worker. According to T. W. Cain of Austin, Mrs. Jenkins was on the regular staff of the Advertiser for 30 years or more. Many installments of the reminiscences of her father-in-law, John N. Jenkins, were run in the Advertiser, as well as the Galveston News, for which paper she wrote features for years. As special correspondent, she served the Austin American and Statesman, the Galveston News, Houston Post, Dallas News, and Fort Worth Star Telegram.

Perhaps Mrs. Jenkins' greatest contribution to Bastrop was as an educator. She came to Texas in the late '70's from Louisiana, where she had received her education in Mansfield Female College. She organized the first public school in Bastrop County at Hills Prairie and later helped to organize the Bastrop Public School, aiding Prof. J. L. Hood in that work. She served as principal of the school for several years.

Mrs. Jenkins organized the Bastrop Normal School, which she conducted for more than 30 years, until a year before her death in September, 1931.

Another educator whose school work is duly chronicled in the Advertiser was Mrs. Sarah Jane Orgain, who came to Bastrop in 1860 and conducted a private school from that time until the early 1900's. Her school was one of the leading institutions of the town.

Perhaps Mrs. Orgain's most outstanding gift to Bastrop was \$10,000 for the establishment of the F. A. Orgain Memorial Hospital, which honored her son, Frank, a banker. Later, Mrs. Orgain gave \$3,000 more and had a ward set apart for Mexicans and another one for Negroes. She died in 1924 at the age of 94.

As the old town listens to the voices of the past there comes the sound of music, for Bastrop has had its share of musical folk. This is largely true because of the efforts of one woman, Mary Ann Nicholson McDowall, affectionately known and loved as "Aunt Mollie" by old and young in Bastrop nearly 20 years ago. Aunt Mollie was a native of Bastrop born in 1843 in the famous old hostelry, the Nicholson house.

Before railroads, all travel was directed through Bastrop and the stage coach always stopped overnight, the travelers glad of the chance to spend the night in the comfortable Nicholson house, where the best of food was served.

Amelia Barr in writing of her stage coach journey in Texas spoke of the splendid accommodations at Bastrop and contrasted the food served there and in other places. She said the chicken, corn-on-the-cob, other fresh vegetables and delicious hot biscuits were a grateful change from the bacon-corn pone diet at other places.

But Amelia Barr was not the only distinguished guest of the house. Since court was held at Bastrop, the most eminent lawyers of the day made the Nicholson house headquarters. Among them were Green, Chandler and West. Pres. Sam Houston was a guest there at least one time.

But the music the old town hears is largely the result of Aunt Mollie's piano teaching for more than 60 years.

The young Mary Ann was chosen to present the company of deporting soldiers at the beginning of the Civil War with the beautiful silk flag of the Confederacy which the women of Bastrop had made. (This banner was carried through the war and now, tattered and torn, reposes in the Confederate museum in the old land office building in Austin.)

Mary Ann's brother, Billie, was killed in the war near Rome, Ga.

While on journey to Matamoras with her uncles, Mary Ann met William McDowall, an Englishman. After the war was over, he came to Texas and claimed her for his bride and carried her to England. They were married in May, 1868, and in June, 1869, Mr. McDowall, hurrying home from a business trip to the United States, eager to see the baby daughter born while he was away, was taken sick and died on board the R. M. S. Arat and was buried at sea not far from Southampton.

And thus it was that Mary Ann Nicholson McDowall came back to Bastrop with prematurely grey hair and a deep sorrow.

The baby daughter grew into a talented young woman who joined her mother in teaching music. When the daughter died, Aunt Mollie went to Houston to be with her sister, Mrs. T. W. House, sister-in-law of E. M. House. Aunt Mollie could not stop her lifelong habit of helping others and in Houston helped organize the Y. W. C. A. and became its first president. In December, 1931, her body was brought to Bastrop for its last resting place on the highest point of the hill in beautiful Fairview cemetery.

Another native-born octogenarian who died in 1932, was Miss Belle Redding, whose father came to Texas in the '30's. For more than 70 years some member of the Redding family had a store in Bastrop. Miss Belle, as everybody in Bastrop called her, and her brother, James, were the last members of the family in this business and they retired in this century.

Recalling the ravages of the floods of 1869 and 1870, worse than the one of recent time (June 1931) it is not to be wondered that some of the Bastrop Pioneers became interested in the Colorado navigation enterprise in the '50's. Certificates of stock in the enterprise are found in papers of several pioneer families.

Mary Jane Thompson (Mrs. Robert) Gill recalls a ride up the Colorado on a steamboat. She remembers clinging to her father's hand as they boarded the "Water Moccasin". It was just above the great raft at the mouth of the Colorado. The flags were flying, the bands were playing and the people shouting. The whistle blew and the boat began to move up the river. People along the banks of the Colorado cheered its journey. Mrs. Gill says that the boat navigated the Colorado to Austin.

At last the voices of the past grow faint and the voices of the present want to be heard. What of this old town of a hundred years and more?

It has 1,800 home loving, peaceful people. They enjoy comfortable homes. They have a modern school. They worship God in Catholic, Episcopal, Christian, Baptist and Methodist Churches. They are proud of a city hall of recent construction which houses a public library of several hundred volumes.

Even before the days of the CCC and federal aid, the residents of Bastrop had petitioned through Mrs. B. D. Orgain and in 1931 the county commission had part of the land now included in the Bastrop State Park set aside for park purposes. They now rejoice in the beautiful park in the heart of the pines that with the Buescher park is one of the largest in Texas. The people of the town and county heartily cooperated with the government in improving this park, led by former State Senator Paul D. Page and County Judge Hartford Jenkins.

Modern stores and garages and filling stations are found on the business streets and six miles of hard surfaced streets is one of the accomplishments of recent date with federal aid.

The voice of the present goes on to pick out these advantages. On three sides of town there are fine farm lands where cotton, corn, cane, sweet potatoes and other garden truck are raised in quantities. The pecan crop from native stock in good years brings in thousands of dollars. Fine thoroughbred cattle and hogs stock the pastures, while turkeys and chickens are raised for the market, as well as home consumption.

North of the old town are coal mines, lignite, a seemingly unlimited supply, while on all sides are oil fields, promises of oil, derricks going up and drillers going down.

In the hills east of town saw mills are producing lumber in paying quantities from the same pine stock that the pioneers found helpful a hundred years ago.

It is a goodly heritage that the old town has—a splendid type of citizens, much natural beauty, good climate, fertile soil, hardly touched coal field, oil, improved highways, a railroad and the promise of power in the ever-flowing Colorado.

Union Aid Bible Class Is About Sixty Years Old

The Union Aid Society was organized about sixty years ago and was then called the Ladies' Aid Society of the German Methodist Church. The meetings were held in the church.

The German Methodist Church and parsonage were located on the northwest corner of Jefferson and Spring Streets. Years later the German Methodist Church merged with the present Methodist Church and the church building was razed. The parsonage is still standing and is now occupied by the Frank Laake family.

The same Aid Society was re-organized and became a social organization. The meetings were held in the homes, and the women brought handwork such as crochet, embroidery, etc., and refreshments were served.

Years later the name was changed to the Union Aid Bible Class, and instead of handwork, Bible study was taken up. At one time the organization had an enrollment of 38 members.

The word Union means that any good Christian woman may become a member regardless of church affiliation.

The meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month in the home of a member. They consist of a business session, a Bible study, a discussion of "Thoughts for the day", and a social hour when the hostess serves refreshments. The members pay dues and that money is used for charitable purposes.

Destiny Rides In Texas

By Alfred E. Menn

Baron de Bastrop made it possible for Moses and Stephen F. Austin to settle Texas.

Land of sunshine — of hard live oaks — of thorny cacti and mesquite — of deer and leaping antelopes — of shaggy headed buffaloes and snorting mustangs. That was Texas.

And none other than Moses Austin, up in Missouri, was day-dreaming about the fabulous Province of Texas in 1820. Austin, owning the rich lead mine at Mine-A-Breton, had built the most palatial, two-storied mansion west of the Mississippi. A small cannon kept the troublesome Indians away. The redskins soon began to respect the palefaces in the big house, Durham Hall, which was named in honor of Austin's hometown, Durham, Connecticut.

Austin and a number of friends had established the Bank of St. Louis. St. Louis, picturesquely located on the west bank of the great Mississippi, was an important trading post. Steamboats chugged up and down the river. Steamboatmen, planters, trappers, visitors, citizens and gamblers shuffled past one another on the streets.

Then came the financial crash of 1819. Banks failed. Personal fortunes were wiped out overnight. The Bank of St. Louis did not weather the storm. In a desperate effort to stop the final crash, Austin lost his personal fortune.

Austin decided that he would try to recoup his personal fortune. How? He decided to do it the hard way. At that time, it seemed, everybody was talking about the Province of Texas. Austin wanted to colonize a certain area in Texas.

Returning travelers always described the place in glowing terms. The inviting prairies, the hills and valleys, they reported, were alive with wild animals. It was a hunter's paradise. If ever a prospective colonist saw this promised land, he would be sold on the idea of owning a league or two — Austin hoped.

The trip from Mine-A-Breton, Missouri, to San Antonio de Bexar, the capitol of the Mexican Province of Texas, would be an ordeal; he would have to ride horseback to his destination. Being a determined man, Austin left for San Antonio. After surviving a number of hardships, Austin found himself standing on a busy plaza.

Would Governor A. Martinez grant Austin an interview?

There he stood, on Military Plaza, facing the Governor's Palace. The building itself resembled a jail, what with its barred windows and heavy doors. Staring for a moment at the low, one-story structure before him, he shuffled toward the flagstone sidewalk. Coming to the main entrance, he noticed a keystone overhead, on which was carved the Hapsburg coat-of-arms; it was dated 1749. Nearby, to his right, fastened in the thick wall, was a large iron ring. Probably this was reserved only for the Governor's horse.

Governor Martinez listened to Austin's plan. The answer was NO! Savvy, yes?

Austin savvied only too well. He was to be booted out of the fair Province of Texas, which was still under the Spanish rule. The Mexicans were ready to fight for their freedom.

Austin walked out to the Plaza de las Armas—Military Plaza. He was too preoccupied with his thoughts to notice the colorful life around him.

Stubborn burros were being led down the street; señoritas walked arm-in-arm; the ungroomed, two-wheeled carretas screeched like cougars; the water-carriers, with their large, baked-clay jars, were plying for a sale. Over there was famous San Fernando Cathedral; across the river could be seen the Alamo. That was San Antonio de Bexar, the downtown section.

Austin couldn't believe his ears. Someone was calling his name. He turned and saw a fine-looking man, with a military bearing, striding toward him. He was the Baron de Bastrop, the second Alcalde in San Antonio de Bexar. Although the two men had not seen each other for more than two decades, each still remembered the other's name.

Baron de Bastrop, too, had once been a great colonizer. He knew the heartaches which a trail blazer had endured before success was attained.

The Baron listened to Austin's story and agreed that the plan was a good one. Wait — he would go and have a private chat with the Governor. He returned with the news that the Governor would allow Austin to remain and rest his weary body.

After Austin returned to his home in Missouri, he became a very ill man. The round trip to Texas had been too much for him. Before he passed away, however, he was notified that he would be allowed to colonize three hundred families in a section along the Brazos River.

Stephen F. Austin, son of the man who had passed away, made that dream come true.

Stephen once wrote, "If it had not been for Baron de Bastrop, my father's trip would have been unsuccessful."

"Elzner's Got 'Em" Early Expression Used In Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

P. O. Elzner was one of the best-known merchants in Central Texas. Elzner's father, August, moved to Bastrop during the late 1850's.

P. O. once operated a restaurant. Later, he was head of a general mercantile business. He moved into his spacious, two-story building in downtown Bastrop during the summer of 1892. This building is still standing. Practically everyone in Bastrop County was familiar with the "Elzner Corner."

If a stranger came to Bastrop and didn't know his way around, he was soon directed to his destination.

"Where can I buy a pair of good boots?" he'd ask.

The citizen would point to the corner of the block, "Over at Elznern's."

"But I have to get a load of groceries."

"Elzner's got 'em."

"Yeah, but I haven't got a wagon yet."

"Buy one at Elzner's."

Elzner sold everything from dry goods, groceries, hardware, furniture, farm machinery to liquors.

One year alone, in 1893, Mr. Elzner bought about 5,000 bales of cotton.

Lost Pines Garden Club Sponsors Flower Show

Mrs. Etta Ringgold

The Lost Pines Garden Club was organized in May 1947 and was affiliated with the State Federation of Garden Clubs. The first officers were Mrs. E. H. Smith, president; Mrs. Tignal Jones, first vice president; Mrs. R. H. Brieger, second vice president; Mrs. Oren Eskew, third vice president; Mrs. Maude Herndon, recording secretary; Mrs. W. E. Maynard, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. Grady Murchison, treasurer.

The following were on the first committees: Mrs. R. E. Standifer, publicity; Mrs. Henry Sebesta and Mrs. C. W. Eskew, telephone; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, civic; Mrs. B. A. Elzner, Jr., membership; Mrs. Gem Simmons, historian; Miss Lena Sturges, flower show; Mrs. R. M. Waugh, parliamentarian.

The club studied plants and flowers, and started the annual flower show, which has grown into an outstanding spring festival.

Many noted speakers have been brought to give the club instruction and demonstration on soils.

Other demonstrations have been given on making corsages and flower arrangements for all occasions. In October, 1951, Mrs. Robert Ash of Washington, D. C., gave a most interesting lecture and demonstration on flower arrangements for table decorations.

The Garden Club members have taken part in many civic projects, among which were marking the streets, sponsoring Christmas Lighting Contests, assisting in organizing the Colored Garden Club, entering the Build Freedom for Youth Contest, Red Cross, Polio and other worthwhile drives, and helping with the cancer bandage program.

Charter members were Mrs. Will Andrews, Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, Mrs. R. H. Brieger, Mrs. Joe Brooks, Mrs. J. Gordon Bryson, Mrs. Owen Chalmers, Mrs. F. W. Denison, Mrs. Oren Eskew, Mrs. B. A. Elzner, Jr., Mrs. Bob Gray, Mrs. J. W. Griffin, Mrs. Fred G. Haynie, Mrs. Maude Herndon, Mrs. S. J. C. Higgins, Mrs. Tignal Jones, Mrs. W. E. Maynard, Mrs. R. G. Murchison, Mrs. J. S. Milton, Mrs. R. J. Moore, Mrs. B. B. May, Mrs. E. S. Orgain, Mrs. Joe Pfeiffer, Mrs. E. N. Powell, Mrs. G. R. Richmond, Mrs. Henry Schuyler, Mrs. Henry Sebesta, Mrs. E. H. Smith, Mrs. Gem Simmons, Miss Lena Sturges, Mrs. R. M. Waugh and Mrs. R. E. Standifer.

Officers in 1948-49 were Mrs. Tignal Jones, president; Mrs. S. J. C. Higgins, first vice president; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, second vice president; Mrs. Oren Eskew, third vice president; Mrs. Maude Herndon, recording secretary; Mrs. Tom Breeding, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. L. Lawrence, treasurer; Mrs. R. M. Waugh, parliamentarian; Mrs. W. B. Ransome, historian.

Mrs. Jones was again president for 1949-50, with Mrs. S. J. C. Higgins, first vice president; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, second vice president; Mrs. Gerald Stephens, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Breeding, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. L. Lawrence, treasurer; Mrs. R. M. Waugh, parliamentarian; Mrs. W. B. Ransome, historian; Mrs. Gem Simmons, publicity chairman; Mrs. G. R. Richmond, flower show chairman.

1950-51 officers were Mrs. L. J. Langley, president; Mrs. Bonnie Grimes, first vice president; Mrs. G. R. Richmond, second vice president; Mrs. H. C. Wilkins, third vice president; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, recording secretary; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. B. A. Elzner, Jr., treasurer; Mrs. R. M. Waugh, parliamentarian; Mrs. W. B. Ransome, historian; Mrs. O. W. Chalmers, publicity chairman; Mrs. R. M. Wiley, chairman of the flower show.

Mrs. L. J. Langley served as president again in 1951-52. Mrs. Maude Herndon, first vice presi-

dent; Mrs. Jess Walker, second vice president; Mrs. H. C. Wilkins, third vice president; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, recording secretary; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. B. A. Elzner, Jr., treasurer; Mrs. R. M. Waugh, parliamentarian; Mrs. W. B. Ransome, historian; Mrs. Jack Claiborne, reporter.

Mrs. B. A. Elzner was elected president for 1952-53, with Mrs. C. W. Eskew, first vice president; Mrs. Maude Herndon, second vice president; Mrs. R. D. Jones, third vice president; Mrs. L. J. Schewe, recording secretary; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, treasurer; Mrs. Gem Simmons, parliamentarian; Mrs. Etta Ringgold, historian; Mrs. Curtis Sanders, reporter.

In the year 1953-54, Mrs. W. B. Ransome was president; Mrs. Tignal Jones, first vice president; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, second vice president; Mrs. L. J. Schewe, third vice president; Mrs. Gem Simmons, recording secretary; Mrs. C. L. Lawrence, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. L. Perkins, treasurer; Mrs. B. A. Elzner, Jr., parliamentarian; Mrs. Etta Ringgold, historian; Mrs. E. D. Cartwright, publicity chairman.

Present officers are Mrs. W. E. Maynard, president; Mrs. Tignal Jones, first vice president; Mrs. Oren Eskew, second vice president; Mrs. E. D. Cartwright, third vice president; Mrs. Gem Simmons, recording secretary; Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Hartford Jenkins, treasurer; Mrs. A. L. Spencer, parliamentarian; Mrs. H. C. Wilkins, historian; Mrs. Henry Schuyler, publicity chairman.

WHAT IS A TEXAS NORTHER?

By Alfred E. Menn

The following is an account of the famous Texas norther as reported during the early 1880's.

The norther is an institution peculiar to Texas, and just a little too blamed peculiar, at that.

Up north, they are called blizzards, but the norther is just as cold by any other name.

When the air is balmy as a June morning and warm enough to set the peach trees to blooming in December—then you might as well get your overcoat and fur cap in readiness.

It is coming!

You see a blue line across the northern horizon. The cattle on the prairie raise their heads and tails and break for the timber.

All at once you feel as though a bucket of cold water has been thrown on you. The cold chills begin to play up and down your spinal column. Your teeth chatter like buckshot in a tin pan. You feel as though you had forgotten to put on your clothes that day. The north wind plays see-saw across your ears.

That is the norther.

There are two kinds of northers, wet and dry. Between the two, we would choose neither.

During northers, it is very "unhealthful" weather for fat hogs!

LIFE IN EARLY BASTROP

(Taken from a history of Bastrop as compiled by Margaret Bell Jones, June 8, 1936)

Chauncey Johnson, a jeweler, and his family from Albany, New York, settled in Bastrop in the early forties. A daughter, Mary Johnson, had won a piano as a prize in college which she attended in Albany. This was, doubtless, the first piano brought to Bastrop. It has been placed in the Museum of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas.

Pupils were required to sweep the school building. The girls did not consider that they tattled when they "told the teacher" on the boys who had spit tobacco juice on the floor. Very little paper was used in the schools except for writing lessons and compositions. Slates and pencils were in common use.

The family doctor carried a medicine bag and rolled terrible pills on a dinner plate. He treated successfully in many cases of diphtheria, typhoid, yellow fever, small pox and cholera. Everybody kept his tonsils and the appendix was never mentioned.

Home-made tallow candles supplied illumination for homes and public buildings. On a cold day enough candles could be molded to last an average family a year.

Water was drawn from a well and drunk from a gourd dipper.

Sewing was done by hand. The first sewing machines were small and were clamped to a table.

Coffins were made of pine lumber by the carpenters of the town and were covered with black velvet.

Matches had not come into general use. Coals to make the morning fire were covered with ashes at night. If the coals failed to keep, a shovelful was borrowed from a neighbor.

Paper bags had not come into use. Groceries bought in small quantities were wrapped in paper.

All the food possible was raised at home. Beef was pickled or cut in long strips and hung on the clothesline to dry. Cabbage for winter use was pulled up by the roots and buried in a trench with the head to the south. Turnips were stored in hills in the garden. Pickles and vinegar were made at home.

Much of the furniture in the first Bastrop homes was made by hand from pine, oak and walnut which grew around Bastrop.

Saved By A Dream

By J. O. Smith

About four miles east of Austin on Highway No. 20, at the intersection of the road leading to the municipal air port, stands a granite marker with the following inscription:

IN MEMORIAM
marking the spot where
JOSIAH PUGH WILBARGER
of Austin's colony was stabbed and scalped
by Indians in 1832 while locating lands
for the colony.
Born in Bourbon Co., Ky., Sept. 10, 1801
Died in Bastrop Co., Texas, April 11, 1845
A true pioneer and patriot
We honor the spirit of sacrifice
Reverenced and erected by his descendants

This marker locates the scene of one of the most remarkable incidents in Texas history that has only a supernatural explanation, yet it is reliably vouchered for.

A man badly wounded and scalped by the Indians was left apparently dead. On the same day in a distant state a few hours before her brother was scalped, this man's sister died. While he lay badly wounded many miles from where his sister lay dead, the fact of which he, of course, was unaware, she appeared to him in a vision and promised to send aid and spoke words of comfort to him.

During the night, a neighbor's wife a few miles from where he lay wounded dreamed three times that this man was in danger and she secured a relief expedition to go in search of him. The dream was presumably brought about by the dead sister's spirit.

This man was Josiah Pugh Wilbarger, an early settler in Texas.

Mr. Wilbarger was living on a land grant on Barton's Prairie near Bastrop and about 25 miles down the river from Austin where he and his father-in-law had settled, built their cabins and planted their crops. He had a good education for those days and also had a working knowledge of surveying. For this reason he was often called upon by his neighbors for many miles around to survey their lands for them.

He was surveying for Gen. T. J. Chambers a few miles below Austin when the Indians attacked the party, scalped him, and killed Mr. Christian and Mr. Strother.

It was in August 1833 when Mr. Wilbarger with four other men set out to do the surveying. In the party were Mr. Christian and Mr. Strother, who were settlers in Austin's colony, and Mr. Haynie and Mr. Standifer, who had recently come to Texas from Missouri expecting to settle here. They were assisting Mr. Wilbarger in the surveying work and prospecting for themselves.

At noon they stopped to eat lunch near Pecan Spring about four miles east of where Austin was afterward established. Wilbarger, Christian and Strother unsaddled and hobbled their horses, but Haynie and Standifer left their horses saddled and staked them to graze.

While the men were eating they were suddenly fired upon by Indians. Each man sprang to a tree for protection and promptly returned the fire of the savages who had stolen up afoot under cover of the brush and timber, having left their horses out of sight. Wilbarger's party had fired a couple of rounds when a ball struck Christian breaking his thigh. Strother had already been mortally wounded. Wilbarger sprang to the side of Christian and set him up against his tree. Christian's gun was loaded but not primed and a bullet had shattered his powder horn. Wilbarger primed his gun for him and then jumped behind his own tree. At this time Wilbarger had an arrow thru the calf of his leg and had received a flesh wound in the hip. Scarcely had Wilbarger regained the cover of the small tree from which he fought until his other leg was pierced with an arrow.

Until this time Haynie and Standifer had helped sustain the fight, but when they saw Strother mortally wounded and Christian and Wilbarger disabled they made for their horses and mounted them. Wilbarger ran to overtake them when an arrow fired from behind struck him about the middle of the neck and protruded on the left side of his chin.

He fell apparently dead and the two other men gave up the fight and fled.

The Indians killed Christian and Strother by cutting their throats and scalping them. Seeing the arrow sticking in the back of Wilbarger's neck, with the point protruding under his chin, the Indians believed he was dead, and began to peel scalps from his head. Wilbarger stated afterward that he was not even unconscious but was aware of everything that was taking place.

Most people when thinking of Indians scalping a person, believe they tear off the whole scalp; but those Indians cut off pieces of scalp about the size of a dollar. They took seven pieces of scalp from the head of Mr. Wilbarger. He said that every time they cut and tore a piece of scalp it sounded like a loud peal of thunder, but it pained him very little as he was paralyzed and numbed by the arrow in his neck.

The Indians stripped most of the clothes off the

bodies of the three white men and left them for dead.

Mr. Wilbarger soon lost consciousness but came to again about the middle of the afternoon. The blood was still oozing from his scalp and he was covered with clotted blood. He managed to extricate the arrow from his neck. He was famished with thirst and very weak from loss of blood but he began to crawl slowly toward a nearby stream which he finally reached. After drinking and quenching his thirst, he lay down in the water in an attempt to cool and soothe the fever which had set in. He lay in the water a long time until he had become so chilled and weak that it was only by supreme effort he was able to drag himself out of the creek onto the bank. From sheer exhaustion he fell into a deep sleep but awoke near nightfall.

By this time the flies were swarming about the wound on his head and neck. Just at that time the real seriousness of his condition came upon him, badly wounded, unable to walk, in a wilderness several miles from habitation, and in desperation he decided he would try to crawl to the Hornsby place about 8 miles away. In this way he managed to drag himself about half a mile to Pecan Spring but became so exhausted he could go no further.

He had about given up all hope and reclined against a large tree then lapsed into a coma.

In this condition he had a remarkable vision of his sister. The apparition said to him: "Brother Josiah, you are too weak to go any farther by yourself. Stay here and help will come before tomorrow's setting of the sun." She spoke other words of comfort and then moved away in the direction of the Hornsby home. It was six weeks later that the news was received in Texas that his sister, Mrs. Margaret Clifton, had died in St. Louis County, Missouri a few hours before Wilbarger was wounded and scalped.

The two men who escaped returned to the Hornsby home and reported that they had seen the Indians kill Wilbarger, Strother and Christian as they fled. A consultation was held and it was decided not to go after the bodies until next day as it was feared that Indians might be lurking in the vicinity and they knew that they did not have men enough to cope with the large force of Indians that had attacked the surveying party.

During the night Mrs. Hornsby had a dream. In her dream she saw Wilbarger, wounded and bleeding and naked, but alive, leaning against a tree beside Pecan Spring. The dream was so vivid and terrible that it awoke her. She was so impressed and disturbed that she awakened her husband and told him of her vision, begging him to take the men and go after Wilbarger. Mr. Hornsby assured her that it could only be a dream and they would go next day in search of the bodies.

But she would not be convinced that it was not true and was so persistent in her argument that he called the three men who had escaped and told them about the incident. They said it was hardly possible that Wilbarger could be alive. They had seen his neck pierced thru and thru by the arrow and had seen the Indians gather around the three men and begin cutting them with their knives. They were so positive he was dead that all went back to bed and to sleep.

Mrs. Hornsby again had the same identical dream and again near morning she had the vision of the terrible plight of Wilbarger the third time. She arose then and prepared breakfast before daylight and awakened the men to eat so they might go to the rescue of Wilbarger, whom she was firmly convinced was alive. She filled a Mexican gourd with milk and sent it along, for she said Wilbarger would be hungry. She also sent two sheets, one to cover the bodies of Christian and Strother and the other to wrap around Wilbarger, whom she said had been stripped by the Indians.

By daybreak the rescue party was in the saddle and on its way. In the party, besides the three men who were in the fatal encounter the day before, were Reuben Hornsby, his 16-year-old son, William; a Mr. Webber, Joseph Rogers and John Walters. When the party neared Pecan Spring they were startled by seeing a naked, blood-covered figure rise from sitting beside a large tree. Mr. Rogers, thinking it was a wounded Indian from the band which had killed the two white men the day before, shouted, "Here they are, boys!" and raised his gun to fire.

Wilbarger, faint and in a weak voice, raised his hands and called, "Don't shoot, boys, it's Wilbarger." The wounded man was given the milk to drink and, after the sheet had been wrapped about his body, he was lifted onto the horse in front of William Hornsby and taken to the Hornsby home. Some of the others got the other bodies and prepared them for burial. Mrs. Wilbarger, who was at home on Barton's Prairie caring for the children and looking after the place while her husband was away surveying, was notified and rushed to the bedside of her husband.

Medical aid was obtained for Mr. Wilbarger as soon as possible and his scalp began to heal. Before long he was able to be moved to his home on Barton's Prairie.

A small place on the top of his head never did heal. The scarred scalp and open sore were kept covered with a silk cap. Silk was a scarce and expensive article in Texas in those days, so Mrs. Wil-

barger made the caps from her silk dress which was a part of her trousseau when she was married in Missouri. The wedding dress of a bride of today would not furnish enough material for very many caps, but this dress provided cap material for many years.

Strange as this story may seem the details were verified in an interview a number of years ago with Miss Fenora Chambers, a daughter of Mrs. Margaret Chambers, whose first husband was Josiah Wilbarger.

In the interview, Miss Chambers said:

"Wilbarger's vision of his sister and Mrs. Hornsby's dream were talked about far and wide throughout Texas by the settlers and I have heard the incident discussed many times during my childhood and younger days while I lived in that part of the state. Settlers marveled all the more about a month after Wilbarger was scalped when a letter was received saying that his sister had died in Florissant, Mo., on the same day that she appeared to him in the vision. It is just one of those things which we do not expect to understand on this earth."

Miss Chambers' mother died at Bastrop at the age of 87 years in 1897. She was born in 1810 in Missouri and married Josiah Wilbarger in 1827 in Lincoln County, Mo. She was the only child of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lehman Barker, and when she and her husband decided to move to Texas on their honeymoon and carve out their fortune in the new country about which Stephen F. Austin and his father, Moses Austin, had carried such wonderful stories back to Missouri, her parents decided to accompany them. Soon after her seventeenth birthday the party of pioneers set out for Texas, which they regarded as the land of opportunity. She and her husband rode in a covered wagon, while her parents rode horseback. Her grandmother, who also decided to accompany them on the pioneer venture, drove a conveyance called a covered carry-all. The aged grandmother drove her team of horses all the way.

"My people were six weeks on the road to Texas," Miss Chambers said. "They lived first at Matagorda, where Mr. Wilbarger taught school for a year. Meanwhile he and Mr. Barker were looking about for a suitable place to obtain a grant of land from the Mexican Government and to settle permanently. They decided they wanted a grant of land on Barton's Prairie, near Bastrop, about twenty-five miles down the Colorado River from Austin. They obtained grants from Stephen F. Austin and became members of Austin's second Colony. Austin had settled 300 families of American settlers under his first contract, between 1821 and 1824, and then obtained his second contract to settle 800 additional families in 1825."

Bastrop Develops With City Owned Utilities

Bastrop has, since the city purchased the Utilities through the Lower Colorado River Authority plan for community ownership, been justly proud of handling its own water and power, which will in several more years be a source of income for improving the city in many ways.

But city-owned utilities is not a new thing in Bastrop. In 1912 Bastrop owned and operated its own power, light, water and ice system, under the name of Bastrop Water, Light and Ice Company, which was operated by W. B. Ransome, Alfred Griesbeck, and J. E. Haines. This plant was owned by these gentlemen until they sold their holdings to the Texas Public Utilities in May, 1925. That Company sold out in December, 1926, to the Texas Power and Light Company.

J. E. Haines, long-time resident and civic leader, was manager of the city owned utilities, and continued as manager under the Texas Public Utilities, remaining in that same capacity with the Texas Power and Light Company.

When the city voted to purchase the utilities from the Texas Power and Light Company on September 24, 1938, Mr. Haines was made manager of the City of Bastrop Utilities and held that position until his death several years later.

When Dr. J. Gordon Bryson was elected mayor of the City of Bastrop in April 1948, he assumed the management of the Utilities, and filled that position until his retirement from that office.

Today the utilities is under the management of Mayor J. V. Ash, Sr., who has been in this office since April of 1952.

This is a growing institution, bringing cheaper power and water rates to the people, supplying the town with sewage, garbage disposal and hauling of trash, spraying the town completely at intervals to keep down the breeding of flies, mosquitoes and other disease spreading and annoying insects. In October of 1952 the City purchased a Pak-Mor, completely covered garbage truck.

City Utility employees at present include Mrs. Bryan Sanders, Mrs. Monroe Sanders, Mrs. Joe Pfeiffer, Quinton Allen, L. O. Hennington, O. B. Johnson, P. J. Parker, Juan Aguilar, Jesus Orosco, Ben Glona, Jose DeLeon, Jesus Coy, Esauro Dominguez and several part time workers.

Bastrop Bustles With Camp Swift Boom

(Taken from the combination edition of the Bastrop Advertiser and the Elgin Courier of July 1942.)

This story might well begin "Once upon a time—" because the story of Bastrop is a fairy story indeed!

One hundred and eleven years ago, a four league tract of land was set aside in a grant to become the town of Mina, later named Bastrop. Cut out of a wilderness, its handful of pioneer citizens fighting both wild animals and Indians for their very existence, the little settlement grew with the years into a peaceful, typically southern town. Beautiful homes were built, stores constructed along the picturesquely narrow main street that paralleled the Colorado River and the aristocratic atmosphere of the old south pervaded Bastrop.

The years came and went, the outside world moved rapidly, business developments and inventions that became a commonplace part of everyday life were evident, but, while Bastrop took on the telephone, the automobile, the radio and other luxuries as they came, fundamentally, the town remained the same.

The same businesses were conducted in the same business houses by the same men, or by their sons or grandsons, with a rare, occasional exception. The same people met each other daily on the streets; the same social groups gathered for outings and parties.

When a stranger came to town, it was an event. Who he was, where he came from, and his business, immediately became the topic of conversation up and down Main Street.

When the fire siren sounded, everybody hurried to the fire. In short, any unusual event became the immediate business of everybody in town.

The passage of time was marked, finally by a few outward changes. Among them were the remodeling of the old school, the remodeling of the courthouse, the building of a new bridge over the Colorado, the building of the city hall, paving the city streets, the coming of the CCC Camp to build the Bastrop State Park concessions, considerable highway construction, and finally the building of a complete new school system.

The people, however, did not change. The comfortable, hospitable, languid charm of the town was the same. Practical jokes constituted a favorite pastime. Business never interfered too much with pleasure. The golf game or a fishing trip in the middle of an afternoon assumed as much importance to the average business man on Main Street as the amount of business he had. These pleasure-loving, happy-go-lucky characteristics brought many a citizen through the hard depression years, so that when the time came to attain the long anticipated progress of the town, they were ready to go. Their civic organizations, active under the leadership of capable, experienced men, suddenly became alive and wide-awake, and, a little to the astonishment of most of Bastrop, progress was upon the town.

Overnight, the hundred-year old town bloomed, like a century plant, into a hustling, bustling little city. The sound of hammers filled the once peaceful atmosphere, and the streets were filled with strange people.

Old store fronts were torn out, and with astonishing rapidity, new, modern show windows appeared. Strange men came into town and opened new businesses in every available building space. New buildings grew like mushrooms. Vacant lots that formerly were used to stake cows in were covered with buildings of all sizes and types—or were turned into tourist courts and trailer camps. The very air was alive with activity.

The construction men moved in, and on pay day the older residents found it more comfortable to remain at home, or if it became necessary to go to town, to go on foot. Traffic became a problem and parking spaces a thing of the past. The cafes and picture shows were crowded. But in spite of the crowd, there was very little disturbance. These people came to Bastrop to do a job; they were very much in earnest about getting that job done.

And in the unbelievable space of three months, the sandy hills between Bastrop and Elgin, covered with scrub oak and cedar brakes, youpon and mesquite, and acres of small, fertile, well-cultivated farms, became the broad expanse of buildings, paved streets and maneuvering grounds that is Camp Swift today. Less than six months ago, rattle snakes coiled and jack rabbits scampered over the fields where soldiers drill today. The buzzards and hawks that wheeled in the sky have relinquished their flights to the roar of observation planes and giant bombers.

There is no "business as usual" in Bastrop. The fishing trips are forgotten. The golf course is neglected. There is no time to attend to anyone else's business, nor for practical jokes. The construction crews are gone, but the streets are filled with soldiers, and the town has settled down to serve them, in every respect, to the best of their ability. The people of Bastrop have a job to do, now, that of taking care of Uncle Sam's boys, and of lending every effort toward winning the war, and they are very much in earnest about getting

this job done.

And so the little village of one hundred and eleven years ago has at last come into its own, and with its growth based upon the unconquerable spirit of those who have peopled it during these years, in words of the fairy story, may it continue to prosper forever after.

SWIFT NAMED FOR FAMOUS FIGHTING TEXAS GENERAL

The War Department rejected suggestions that Bastrop County camp be named for the late Gov. Joseph D. Sayers, choosing instead "Camp Swift" in honor of the famous fighting Texan, Maj.-Gen. Eben Swift, who died in 1938 after many years of active service with the army, including every major encounter since the Indian wars of 1876.

Requests that the camp be known as Camp Sayers were forwarded to the War Department by the Smithville and Elgin Chambers of Commerce, while Bastrop citizens favored "Camp Bastrop" in honor of the Baron de Bastrop, who aided Stephen F. Austin in establishing his colony along the Brazos in 1834 and who later founded the City of Bastrop which bears his name.

Gen. Swift was born at Fort Chadbourne, Texas, in 1854. A graduate of West Point in 1876, his first assignment was the Indian campaigns in Wyoming and other states. He served in Cuba and Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War, and following this, was attached to the War College Staff. He next saw active service in the Moro Revolution in the Philippines and following this assignment, he was commander of the Army Service School.

He next responded to the call to arms during the Mexican uprising prior to World War I and in 1916 was in charge of the cavalry division at El Paso.

He served with the AEF and after the war, was chief of the Allied Missionary Mission to Italy and commander of American forces there.

Mysterious Incident Occurs In Hills Prairie Years Ago

(From the Historical Edition of the Advertiser, August 29, 1935)

By Eva H. L. Karling

(As related to me by Mrs. Sallie McGehee Barret of San Antonio, Mrs. Bettie Trigg Price, and Robert Watson of Bastrop.)

One morning in the sixties, as the Trigg and McGehee children were walking to school together, as they always did, they saw in a grove of trees some distance in front of the John Tom McGehee home, a man who seemed to be dancing a fantastic kind of a waltz. They watched him with wide eyes and growing fear for some time, then ran and told Mr. McGehee, who came to investigate.

He found that a rope extended from the man's neck to the limb of the tree, and the wind swaying the tree limb turned him back and forth, making him seem to be dancing. They found, pinned on the man's chest, this inscription: "Horse Thief."

No one knew by whom or from whence he had been brought there in the dark hours of the night and hanged. But the law of the "Medes and Persians" was no more relentless than the Texas sentiment against horse and cattle stealing. He was buried by the men on land now belonging to Mrs. M. A. Craft.

Refugee From Holland Early Settler Of Texas

By ALFRED E. MENN
(From the Bexar Archives)

Baron de Bastrop, a refugee from Holland, reached Onachita, Louisiana in 1795, and obtained from the Spanish Government a permit to settle 500 families on 12 leagues of land. He settled 100 families, but the project failed because the locality was not adapted to growing wheat.

This giant of a man—one report states that he was nearly seven feet tall—was not discouraged however. When Louisiana was purchased by the United States, Bastrop decided to come to Texas in 1805. His destination was San Antonio.

He tried once more to colonize a certain district. This dream failed to materialize. He decided to become a freighter, and hauled supplies from Monterrey and other cities to San Antonio.

Don Felipe Enrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop, was appointed an official interpreter by acting Governor Varela in 1816. Having won the confidence of the Spanish politicians, Bastrop became the "second alcalde" of San Antonio in 1820, the year in which Moses Austin travelled all the way from Missouri to San Antonio. It was through Bastrop's efforts that the then Governor Martinez allowed Moses Austin to stay in San Antonio for a short time. Later, of course, Moses Austin was granted the right to settle 300 families in Texas. Stephen F. Austin made that dream come true, after the death of his father.

Bastrop, once the town of Mina, was named in honor of Baron de Bastrop.

PIONEER MARRIAGES

(Taken from a history of Bastrop as compiled by Margaret Bell Jones, June 8, 1936)

At this early date of Texas History, there were no ministers of the gospel and no officer who might legally perform a marriage ceremony. The Catholic priests in the missions of San Antonio were busy converting the Indians and seldom left their Mission homes. (This combination meeting house, courthouse and dance hall was built by S. V. R. Eggleston, who was killed by the Indians in his own dooryard in Bastrop in 1839.)

A fine code of honor prevailed this embryo State; and so it came about that marriage by contract was legalized. This I have from a pioneer, Mrs. Campbell Taylor: "Marriage contracts were drawn up in writing, signed by the contracting parties, and two witnesses, and were as binding as though it were a license. Sometimes it would be two or three years before a priest could be secured to perform the marriage ceremony."

Mrs. Wilbarger (when Mrs. Chambers) told me in a most interesting way of one wedding feast. On the bank of the Colorado in the southern part of town was a two-room two-story frame house, with a room below and a room above. This building was a meeting house, courthouse and dance hall. On one occasion a few years after Mrs. Wilbarger had had her strange journey from the coast to her log cabin home, a priest came over from one of the Missions. Word had been sent out to all the surrounding country of his coming, and as night drew on, people on foot, in ox wagon, and on horseback were wending their way to the frame building on the Colorado's bank. The upper room was lighted by tallow candles in tin holders, hung around the walls. A rough wooden bench, nailed to the walls, extended around the room. Twenty-five couples presented themselves for marriage. Quite a number were those who had been united by contract, and their children were with them. The good priest solemnly read the religious service of his church. Children born in contract marriage were legitimate. After the twenty-five couples had made and renewed vows, the company "made a night of it"—the good Padre as jolly as any one. Indians prowled by night, and it was not safe to return to homes until sun-up.

Merchants And Businessmen During 1870s

By ALFRED E. MENN

C. Erhard . . . oldest druggist in Texas. Medical wines and liquors. Patent medicines.

William Kesselus . . . Merchant tailor. Wilson's Sewing Machines. Sewing machines of all kinds repaired on short notice.

A. F. B. Elzner . . . has opened a cabinet and furniture shop. He is prepared to make or repair all kinds and styles of furniture . . . Coffins always on hand.

Edward Bastian . . . dealer in stoves and tinware.

The Nicholson House or Hotel. Diagonal Street. Near the Military College.

John S. Johnson . . . merchant. Had on hand too many bedsteads, cradles, bed-springs, mattresses, chairs and baby buggies.

C. B. Garwood, with J. C. Higgins . . . would respectfully call the attention of the people of Bastrop and vicinity to our new and splendid stock of goods now in store and for sale cheap. Stock embraces staple and fancy dry goods. Ladies' and gentlemen's hats, boots and shoes. Ladies' saddles, all styles and prices. Ready-made harness.

All kinds of tools for carpenters, farmers and mechanics. Genuine French brandy. "We guarantee our whiskeys to be the best and purest to be found . . . Our stock of fancy and staple groceries cannot be surpassed in this market . . ." Pipes, tobacco and cigars. School books.

Valuable land for sale . . . John J. Moncure, Bastrop, Texas.

If your joints ached during the 1870s, there was always an opportunity to buy a bottle of the famous Mexican Mustang Liniment.

George Pfeiffer operated a Saddle and Harness Shop on the west side of Main Street. First door below Kesselus' Tailor Shop.

Notice was given that a social dance would be held at the Academy building, to the young ladies of the Excelsior College. All ladies and gentlemen are respectfully invited. Excellent music.

Receives Contents Of Courthouse Cornerstone

By ALFRED E. MENN

When the present county courthouse was built in 1883, the old cornerstone, dated 1853, contained a rusty box.

Much of the contents were too decayed to be of much use. In the dust were found: an 1842 silver dollar, a half dollar, a quarter and a dime, dated 1850, 1850 and 1851. A few scraps of the Advertiser were found.

Who received the mementoes of this old cornerstone? Major J. D. Sayers was presented with the aged cornerstone. Judge Dyer Moore received the dime, Robert Gill the quarter and Tom C. Cain the half dollar. Gus Jung kept the dollar.

Letter Gives Historical Facts Of Bastrop's Early Days

By Alfred E. Menn

C. Erhard wrote a letter of great interest. Many persons in present Bastrop will enjoy reading this:

"I came to Bastrop in January, 1840.

"In the town, there were two steam sawmills, which also had small corn mills attached to them. In the country, all corn had to be ground on hand-mills, called 'Armstrong Mills.' When the new corn was not too hard, it was grated and it made delightful pancakes.

"About 1842, there being no money or trade, the two steam sawmills ceased operation and were sold.

"Col. J. C. Higgins, I believe, bought one of them and put it up on Cooperas Creek, about three miles from Bastrop. Well, Higgins had a hard time of it; he had to be engineer and fireman himself. As there was no sale for cornmeal, he ground that for accommodation; and there was very little demand for pine lumber.

"I do not believe there was any cotton raised in Bastrop County until 1841.

"New settlers consumed all the corn and pork that could be raised by the few local settlers. In 1842, no immigrants came to Texas, for Texas had no money and no credit abroad.

"I do not believe there was a cotton gin in Bastrop County before the Fall of 1842, and then probably not more than three in all Bastrop County.

"I remember that in 1841, when the Santa Fe Expedition started, I never saw a cotton plant in West Texas.

"In 1843, when I returned to Texas the cotton planter sent their largest share of cotton on pine log rafts down the Colorado River to Matagorda, where the logs were sold for house building (there being no pine in the lower country) and the cotton sold—for cash?

"No, but exchanged for goods and sugar, the latter raised on the Caney lands. Little cotton was then sent by ox teams to Houston.

"In the summer of 1843, I was employed in one of those raft-cotton exportation enterprises. That is, I drove the horses belonging to the men managing the raft, so that they could return after arriving at Matagorda.

"I was to receive my wages in sugar. I went certain distances, as far as the manager thought the raft would reach by river. There I had to camp, cook my supplies and feed or stake out the men's horses on the grass overnight, and next morning, start on again.

"After I had got 20 miles below LaGrange, the manager overhauled me and said that the raft had stalled (grounded below the rapids of LaGrange) and that all hands had to return to Bastrop and wait till the river took another rise.

"I then hired to pull fodder, got sick, and could no longer wait to accompany our craft, or wait for a rise in the river.

"Cotton then was worth only 6 cents a pound, for we had to pay export duty to the United States, and had no commerce with Europe. Neither did we get coin for our cotton.

"A cow or calf was worth only five dollars!!

"We had only Texas currency, worth about fifty cents on the dollar.

"Strange as this may all appear to the present population in the 1880's, they will laugh when I state that, on Christmas day, 1843, James Nicholson gave a Christmas ball, the admission fee being a cow and calf! People came to it from Austin and La Grange—usually on horseback. As for buggies and coaches, we had none.

"Mr. Nicholson managed to get coffee from La Grange and sugar from Matagorda. As for pork, mutton, beef, eggs and butter, we had plenty.

"The reader cannot imagine how we enjoyed that party. I had not even a cow and calf to contribute, but Mr. Nicholson, being my former guardian, I being left an orphan in Bastrop, invited me to it anyway.

C. Erhard."

1869 FACTORY EMPLOYS 30

By Alfred E. Menn

Reprinted from 1869:

They cannot supply the demand for their cloths. Their wool carders are in perfect order.

They have now in operation 26 looms. Weavers run three and four looms each, averaging 30 or 40 yards per day to the loom.

In the spinning department, small children 7 and 8 years of age are keeping up 96 threads. In one instance, a little girl of 9 years is running 192 threads.

These fabrics are pronounced by the best judges to be equal, if not superior, to the celebrated Indian Head sheeting both in weight and quality.

At present, 30 employees are engaged in this factory, including male and female.

As soon as practicable, the owners will increase their employees.

Bastrop Methodist Church Oldest In Southwest Texas

By Lucy R. Maynard
(Oct. 14, 1952)

In studying the early cultural activities of people living at this place on the Colorado River, we read:

"A party was usually an all-night affair since it was dangerous for the guests to return to their homes after dark. Mrs. Josiah Wilbarger Chambers recalled one such celebration which she said took place in Bastrop in the early 1830's. A priest from a San Antonio mission came to perform religious ceremonies for twenty-five couples who had been married by common contract. The weddings and the subsequent celebration took place in a two-story house in the southern part of the town which was a combination dance hall, courthouse and meeting house. After the ceremony, a feast was spread and the settlers made merry until daylight."

In 1832, James Gilliland moved to a place on the Colorado thirteen miles below Austin and built Moore's Fort, about where Webberville is now. Gilliland was a Methodist exhorter and though not a licensed preacher, spent his free time riding about the countryside gathering people together for religious services, and we read:

"This lay preaching of Gilliland took him to the little settlement of Bastrop one Sunday morning in the spring of 1833. A meeting was held in the incomplete storehouse of Jesse Holderman. Planks were placed on boxes or kegs for seats and a barrel was used as a pulpit. On that memorable Sunday morning the first Methodist Church within the bounds of what is now our Conference was organized. The white people, Mr. and Mrs. C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Deleplane, Mr. and Mrs. Brisband, Mrs. Sara McGehee, Mrs. Christian, and one Negro woman, Cecelia Craft, who belonged to Mrs. Samuel Craft of Craft's Prairie, became the charter members."

One account says that the brother of Mrs. Harriet Taylor (daughter of Samuel Craft of Craft's Prairie) arrived home one Saturday saying that church services were to be held the next day in Bastrop. Mrs. Taylor and her brother rode in on horseback to the meeting. However, their names do not appear on the roster. Cecelia Craft was probably the maid who accompanied Mrs. Taylor.

How often this group held services we do not know, because at that time, Protestant religious services were illegal and strictly forbidden. The Roman Catholic Church was the only religion permitted by the Mexican Government.

In 1839, Dr. Martin Ruter, an ordained and authorized Methodist minister, was sent to La Grange, Texas, to organize churches in the various settlements nearby.

"In a letter dated February 3, 1838, at Washington-on-the-Brazos, that pioneer father of Texas Methodism wrote his wife, 'I have been twice to the Colorado and am the first traveling preacher that ever reached its shores.' (Dr. Ruter was in error concerning this since Henry Stephenson had preached on the Colorado in 1824.) 'The second time was three weeks ago. I went up to Bastrop through the range where those wandering Arahs (Indians) most resort. The old inhabitants told me that on the route was danger but the people were perishing for lack of knowledge in Bastrop, and its vicinity, and I determined to visit them. Three men, armed with rifles and well-equipped, offered to accompany me and we all went together though I carried no arms myself. I spent a Sabbath there, formed a society of fifteen members, and we all returned without being molested. On the route we took, we traveled thirty miles or more without seeing a habitation, and in that space passed six graves of persons whom the Indians had murdered and robbed."

We also find:

"In 1838, Dr. Martin Ruter organized the Bastrop Educational Society and with the intention of opening an academy, the society bought a league of land and applied for a charter. Various reverses, however, delayed fulfillment of their purpose until 1851. In that year they opened the door of their newly completed two story pine building for classes. The following year, the school was incorporated as the Bastrop Female Academy and title to its property was vested in the society as trustee for the annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South."

Rev. Curl says in his book published in 1951:

"Thus we see that our congregation at Bastrop constitutes the oldest Methodist Church in Southwest Texas, it having been 113 years since its reconstitution and 118 years since its original organization. Ruter made one or two points between Washington-on-the-Brazos and Bastrop, but on May 16, 1838, less than six months after his arrival in Texas, Dr. Ruter died."

In 1839, "John Haynie was sent to Austin, the new capital of the Republic. The nearest settlement and Methodist preaching place was at Bastrop, thirty-five miles down the river from Austin."

At the end of the year, Rev. Haynie reported: "I have gathered up the scattered members in

towns and country having formed a few societies in a two weeks circuit. I placed the Sabbath preaching in Austin and Bastrop and filled up the intermediate ground in the week. The Indians were quite troublesome this year on my circuit. They were frequently before me and behind, within a few hours, killing the people and stealing horses. I was often pressed to carry arms, but I trusted in the Lord."

His report carried the following figures concerning organized classes: Austin, fourteen members with David Thomas as the class leader; Bastrop, thirty-two white and one colored and C. Anderson, leader; Moore's Fort, twenty-one white and colored with William Thorp, leader.

At the close of the Mexican war, the Methodist people in Bastrop bought a house on Main Street and held services there until the church was built on Church Street in 1851.

In 1840, Bishop Beverly Waugh came to Texas to hold the first Methodist Church Conference. It began on Christmas Day at La Grange. Bishop Waugh visited in Bastrop while in Texas.

"All historians agree that the third conference was held in Bastrop but some say 1842 and some say 1843. Probably the difference in year date is due to the fact that they were held around the New Year, probably extending from December 1842 to January 1843. However, for this first conference in Bastrop, Mrs. John McGee who lived on a plantation some distance from the settlement rented a house in town, furnished it for the occasion, and entertained the visiting preachers while they were here."

In 1851, the second Texas Annual Methodist Conference was held in Bastrop, the third in 1853, and several have been here since.

The first building erected solely as a church in the county was the Methodist Church dedicated in 1851. The Rev. Mr. John Wesley Kinney, who had been preaching in Texas since 1834, held the dedication services.

1851 was a great year for Bastrop Methodists. It saw their church opened, a school for girls opened and the second Annual Texas Methodist Conference held in that church. A hundred years later we have not seen such a year of accomplishments repeated.

The present Methodist Church is on Main Street, probably near the location of the house rented for meeting purposes after the close of the Mexican war. It was erected in 1924 with the Rev. R. F. Curl as pastor.

In 1923, lightning struck the belfrey of the old frame church building, setting fire to the tower. Quick work by the town people extinguished the fire before it spread beyond the bell tower. This building was torn down when the present church was erected. The beautiful stained glass windows we enjoy now were removed from the old building to the new. The architecture of the new church had no belfrey, and Mrs. B. D. Orgain was instrumental in building the campanile on the grounds which houses the old bell. The history of the bell itself is another story.

Mrs. Mary Christian, a member of that little group gathered in Holderman's Store in 1833 was the great grandmother of two of our present day Methodist bishops, A. Frank and W. Angie Smith.

Ministers Of Whom There Is A Record Of Their Preaching In Bastrop

James Gilliland

John Haynie

— Alexander

Wesley Kinney

— Wilson

Josiah Whipple

— Richardson

— Summers

— Paine

— Hendrix

— Allen

— Thrall

— Wooten

"Pleasant" Yell

Mordecai Yell

Carl Young

— Rottenstein

Robert Anderson

W. Worthan, 1889-1892

H. M. Sears, 1892-1895

Ira M. Bryce, 1897

Nathan Powell, 1898-1900

O. T. Hotchkiss, 1900-1902

John W. Stovall, 1902-1903

C. M. Thompson, 1903-1904

C. H. Booth, 1904-1906

A. B. Davidson, 1906-1910

I. T. Morris, 1910-1912

L. C. Mathis, 1912-1914

Theophilus Lee, 1914-1917

H. M. Whaling, 1917-1919

M. K. Feed, 1919-1920

J. T. Tracy, 1920-1923

E. Y. S. Hubbard, 1923-1924 (died)

J. E. Anderson, 1924-a few months

R. F. Curl, 1924-1927

Walter Dibrell, 1927-1931

Milton F. Hill, 1931-1934

W. N. Carl, 1934-1938

L. D. Hardt, 1938-1942

C. O. Boatman, 1942-1943 (entered service)

Robert S. Tate, Jr., 1943-1946

John W. Griffin, 1946-1952
Wesley N. Schulze, 1952-

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Historical Records Survey. 'Inventory of the
County Archives of Texas, Bastrop County,
No. 11.'

"Texas Methodist Centennial Yearbook, 1934."

HISTORICAL MATERIAL ON THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Presented by the Rev. W. N. Schulze
(From the record of the Third Quarterly Confer-
ence for the year 1923-24, dated April 22, 1924.)

The roll was called and the following members
answered to their names:

W. B. Ransome, W. E. Maynard, P. C. Maynard,
J. K. Young, Mrs. A. B. McLavy, E. S. Orgain,
A. H. Kohler, W. A. McCord, M. C. Booth, Mrs.
B. D. Orgain, J. B. Price, N. G. Fowler, Mrs.
W. B. Ransome, Mrs. P. C. Maynard, Mrs. W. E.
Maynard, Rev. Giles G. Leath, Mrs. Joe K. Young,
Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, Rev. D. E. Hawk was
Presiding Elder. The following resolutions were
made and passed:

(1) "Whereas, need of a new house of wor-
ship and particularly of a Sunday School Building
in keeping with standard requirements suggested
by our General Boards of Church Extension and
Sunday Schools is recognized by well nigh all of
our membership as well as the Community at
large: Therefore Be It Resolved: That this Quar-
terly Conference empower and authorize the trust-
ees of our present property to proceed under the
laws of the Discipline to the acquisition of a loca-
tion as nearly Central as possible and the erection
thereof of a House of Worship with Sunday School
conveniences approved by the Architectural De-
partment of the Board of Church Extensions and to
cost not less than \$10,000.00, subscriptions not to
be valid save as these conditions are met."

—P. C. Maynard, John O. Turner

(2) "Resolved:

"(1) That this Quarterly Conference be not
unmindful of the fact that prior to the death of
that faithful and loyal church member and conse-
crated worker, Miss Sallie McCord, she was
active in agitating the erection of a new
place of worship, and that she spent her time
and promised her means towards this end. This
body wishes to go on record as revering the name
of Sister McCord, for we feel that her efforts, pray-
ers and hopes are about to materialize; although
it was not her privilege to live to see it.

"(2) That we desire to express our love and
appreciation for the splendid gifts donated by Sis-
ter B. D. Orgain and Bro. W. A. McCord, for had
it not been for them, the building of such a house
of worship would have been an impossibility
at this time.

"(3) This Conference does not wish to lose
sight of the other givers and would thank each one
for the amount subscribed, small or great. May
God's choicest blessings rest upon the entire Church
Membership, and may the building of this Temple
of God mark a new era in the religious life of this
community."

—M. C. Booth

At the Fourth Quarterly Conference for the same
year, held Sept. 7, 1924, a part of the Pastor's re-
port read as follows: "The special feature of
future work is the new Church project. We have
not decided finally on the correct plan, but it is
hoped this will soon be done and that the new
Church will be a reality in the near future."

—J. E. Anderson, Pastor

At the Second Quarterly Conference for the
year 1924-25, held Feb. 8, 1925, the pastor, Rev.
R. F. Curl, reported as follows: "The contract for
our new church has been let and the work steady-
ly advances."

BISHOP FRANK SMITH WRITES OF ANCESTRY

(The following letter was received by the Rev.
Wesley N. Schulze, pastor of the First Methodist
Church, from Bishop A. Frank Smith, concerning
information of his relatives who lived in Bastrop.
The Rev. Schulze had written to Bishop Smith ask-
ing for the information.)

Houston, Texas
May 18, 1953

Dear Brother Schulze:

I have just recently returned home from our
trip abroad and have your letter of March 20.

I would be delighted to talk to you in person, if
it were possible, and give you what information I
have concerning early days in and around the Bas-
trop vicinity. It is not possible for me, however,
to give a written account of the same because I
have only fugitive and scattering pieces of infor-
mation.

My great-grandparents came to Texas with Aus-
tin's colony and settled on a tract of land in what
is now Bastrop County in the year 1828. The town
of Elgin is now built on that tract of land. My
great-grandfather was killed by the Indians at the
time Josiah Wilbarger, a citizen of Bastrop, was
scalped and left for dead. My great-grandmother
was a charter member of the Methodist Society,
which became the Methodist Church of Bastrop.

She had re-married and was Mrs. Christian Burle-
son. I have been told that there is a window, or
some sort of memorial, in the Bastrop church bear-
ing the names of the charter members. If so, the
name of Mrs. Burleson is probably to be found in
the list.

The dust of my people for four generations lies
in the soil of Bastrop County and, of course it
is home to me as no other place in the world can
ever be.

I trust that you have had a good year and that
all goes well with you and yours.

With every good wish, I am

Cordially yours,

A. FRANK SMITH

Normal Academy Operated At Cedar Creek In 1884

(The following clipping from a July, 1884 Adver-
tiser was contributed by Mrs H. C. Smith of Cedar
Creek, whose present home is made of lumber from
the Normal Academy.)

Central Texas Normal Academy, Cedar Creek,
Texas, Prof. S. H. Morgan, Principal. This school
closed its first annual session June 20, 1884, and
will open again September 1, 1884. Pupils enroll-
ed the first year, 101.

Location convenient and desirable.

Expenses reasonable enough to suit all classes.
Instruction thorough.

Furniture and apparatus new and modern style.
Pupils of scholastic age will be entitled to free
tuition as long as the public fund will warrant.

Young ladies and gentlemen desiring a good,
practical, education are readily invited to examine
our catalogue and see the superior advantages
which our school affords, and then come and prove
its merits.

Tuition \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$4.00 per month.
Board, \$2.00, \$2.50, and \$3.00 per week. Commu-
nity moral, location healthful. For catalogue, or
further information address

S. H. MORGAN, Principal

Cedar Creek P. O., Bastrop County, Texas

Mother Protects Baby From County Indians

By Alfred E. Menn

For certain reasons, the heroine of this story
will remain nameless; the tale is a true one.

The Indians were roaming across the country.
When it was discovered that a certain isolated
cabin was inhabited only by several women and
a number of children, the redskins attacked it.

After their gory deed was finished, one of the
women and her infant were captured and forced to
accompany the Indians. After traveling for some
time, they stopped on the banks of a stream.

One of the bucks decided he would have some
fun. He grabbed the infant from the protective
arms of his mother and threw him into the waters
of the creek.

The terrified mother jumped in and saved the
infant.

This cruel act was repeated. Our heroine had
tears of anger in her eyes. She stooped, picked up
a limb and conked the redskin on his thick skull.

The other Indians, who always admired a brave
person, laughed derisively at their fallen warrior.

From then on, the lady and her infant were left
strictly alone. They were later bought out of bon-
dage by the man she married.

Wolfenbarger Cemetery, One Of Texas Oldest, Founded 1830

The Wolfenbarger Cemetery, founded in the early
part of 1830, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the
state. It was established by Samuel Wolfenbarger,
who came to Texas in the early days of 1830, and
made his home on a league of land granted to him
in 1835.

The cemetery has been available to the public for
more than a century and has been used by families
in Bastrop County. All Wolfenbargers who have
passed away since 1835 have been buried in the
Wolfenbarger Cemetery.

One Wolfenbarger boy who was killed during the
Civil War is not buried there as his body was not
returned home.

First Settlers Forced To Eat Wild Horses

The first settlers of Bastrop who came in after
Stephen F. Austin's explorations in the summer
of 1821, had their supplies of food stolen by In-
dians, and although Buffalo and other wild game
was plentiful further inland, roving Indian bands
made hunting too hazardous, but numerous wild
mustangs roamed and fed on the lush grass of the
Colorado bottom land. These wild horses were
fat, and during the first two years of the colony,
they were the principal source of meat supply.
More than a hundred were slaughtered and eaten.

Bastrop State Park One Of Most Scenic In State

(Taken from the combination edition of the Elgin
Courier and the Bastrop Advertiser, July 1941)

Located in the picturesque forest of the Lost Pines
of Texas, Bastrop - Buescher State Park, its histori-
cal background colored over 100 years ago by the
activities of Baron De Bastrop, is one of Texas' most
scenic and most highly developed state parks.

Its vast area, in excess of 4,000 acres, is typical
rolling East Texas country heavily wooded with
loblolly pine and different species of moss-covered
oak.

The Bastrop entrance is one mile east of the City
of Bastrop, and the Buescher entrance is about the
same distance north of Smithville.

The park lies at the junction of Highway 71 and
Highway 20 and the Old San Antonio Road, 26
miles southeast of Austin. The two areas are con-
nected by an eight-mile improved scenic auto drive
through the heart of dense woodlands.

The park area possesses unique interest in being
a part of an isolated tract of pine timber which is
the most western outpost of the loblolly pines. This
tract of pine timber, known as Lost Pine Forest of
Texas, covers a region of approximately 70 square
miles in Bastrop and Fayette Counties. Its origin
is uncertain. The seed may have been brought by
birds, or the first seedlings planted by human hands
before the first settler arrived. This tract of iso-
lated pine timber was the chief source of wealth to
the town of Bastrop for several generations, and its
lumber mills furnished material used in building a
great portion of early Central Texas homes and
buildings.

Today the park is one of the most outstanding
wildlife preserves in the state. Its roaming timber-
ed hills, scenic valleys, towering pines and majestic
old moss-covered oaks are ideal examples of Nature's
handiwork. Countless species of trees, shrubs, wild
flowers and small animals are found in the park.
There is one herd of deer, consisting of several wild
buck and about 300 doe, and raccoon, fox, o'possum,
and squirrel that have chosen the park recesses as
their habitat. Rabbits are plentiful. Several hun-
dred species of wild flowers bloom in the park during
the early spring and summer.

Six handsome rustic stone cabins and five timber
structures are located on ridges and draws amid
huge pines along the shores of the park lake. These
picturesque cabins, in an atmosphere of rusticity
and primitiveness, are as comfortable and peaceful
as town houses. All cabins are neatly furnished
with native hand-carved cedar furniture and are
complete with bathtubs and showers for guests'
comfort. The lake, which the visitor overlooks from
his cabin window, is ideal for canoeing and boating.
It covers an area about five or six acres and has a
maximum depth of nearly thirty feet.

The swimming pool, which is one of the few oval-
shaped, clear water pools in Texas, is one of the
finest swimming places in the Texas State Parks
system. The pool is fully equipped with a diving
tower and diving boards and wading pools are at
each end of the pool.

The Lost Pines Golf Course is one of the major
attractions at the park. It is a 19-hole course with
grass greens and inviting fairways laid out beauti-
fully among towering pines, rolling hills, rough
gulches and lily ponds.

The Park Refectory building is built of rustic na-
tive iron stone, crude timbers, and milled lumber.

Picnic areas in the Lost Pine Forest are fully
equipped with table and bench combinations, open
fire grills, fire places, rain shelters, fire wood, cen-
tral rest rooms, drinking fountains, running water,
foot trails and bridges.

The beautiful Bastrop - Buescher State Park of-
fers complete facilities for picnicking, golfing,
nature study, sightseeing and overnight lodging.

Guests in the park may enjoy camping, dancing,
dining, fishing, golfing, picnicking and swimming.
The park's many facilities include the swimming
pool, bath house, cabins, concession building, foot
trails, horse trails, picnic shelters, picnic tables,
playground equipment and organized camps. Its
natural features consist mainly of brooks, the lake,
the piney woods and scenic drive.

PARK HAS GROWN WITH YEARS

Since the above was written, the State Park has
grown steadily. The Refectory has been enlarged
and regular meals served there. A miniature golf
course and children's playground between the Re-
fectory and the pool are added attractions.

More cabins have been added to Pioneer Village,
and a completely equipped group camp area has
been constructed in the area back of the pool. This
camp will accommodate more than 100 at a time.

A sprinkler system has been installed in the pool
itself, to keep the water cool and refreshing for
swimming.

Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Marbury are the present man-
agers of the Park concessions, and plans are being
made for continued improvements and additions for
the pleasure of vacationists and tourists.

Bits Of Legend And History Create Bastrop's Colorful Background

By MRS. W. J. MILEY

(Published in the Historical Edition of the
Bastrop Advertiser in 1935)

Bastrop, the cradle of Texas Independence, is nestled by the banks of the historic Colorado. It was but yesterday when the weary wayfarer beheld here in this picturesque valley naught save smiling fields and shady dells surrounding a dull, listless, inactive, unpretentious old village. Marks of decay and a morbid condition of affairs were visible upon every hand.

But behold—what a change has come. Bastrop has arrayed herself the habiliment characteristic of a flourishing young city, and taken her place in advancement, enterprise, culture and refinement.

The fertile valley upon which mustang pony and cattle were wont to roam and browse, and which stretches itself to the brow of the pine-clad hills on the east, is now bedecked and beautified with cosy cottages and proud mansions, surrounded with beds of fragrant flowers. The Bastrop of yesterday is no more.

In the ground God planted the beauties of nature and the air he saturated with the perfumes of romance. Then, in the hearts of the pioneers of the generations before us, he placed the venturesome spirit which led to the discovery of the place he builded for them.

It has not been so many years since the first covered wagons of Anglo-Saxon civilization rolled across the border of the Empire State of Texas, which flourished under a succession of flags to its present day and hard against bitter odds.

The pioneers worked and fought, and spilled their crimson life-fluid on the green prairies that they might establish a republic.

In January 1821, Moses Austin had been granted permission through the influence of Baron de Bastrop to establish a colony of three hundred families in Texas. Austin died in June, therefore, the conduct of this enterprise fell to his son, Stephen F. Austin.

On August 19, 1821, the government granted Stephen F. Austin permission to explore the country adjacent to the Colorado River, and choose what land he wished. Supplies of food were to follow the colonists on the ship "Lively" but the Indians stole them leaving the colonists totally destitute of bread, as corn could only be obtained overland. Their dependence for meat was upon wild game.

To range the country for buffaloes was dangerous on account of the Indians. Mustangs or wild horses were abundant and fat, and over one hundred of them were eaten during the first two years of the colony.

In recalling the hardships of Texas veterans, we must not forget that while one hand guided the plow, the other was forced to wield the sword to protect the lives of wives and little ones.

The first settlement was known as Mina, and then it had only a few adventurous spirits and afterwards a body of actual settlers.

Among the earliest and most ardent advocates of resistance to Santa Anna, usurpator of power, was Judge R. M. Williamson, who being one of the first prescribed by the dictator, retreated to Mina, which district he represented in the consultation which established a provisional government.

Turn to page 337, Vol. I Yoakum's history of Texas and you will find that the first revolutionary movement in Texas against Mexico was inaugurated at Mina (now Bastrop) through a "committee of safety" and all the other municipalities, says the historian, soon followed the example of Mina.

The Runaway Scrape

Again, turn to Brown's History of Texas, Vol. I, page 290, and read "On the 8th day of May, 1835, ayuntamiento and the citizens of Mina (now Bastrop) ever in the fire front, held a joint meeting and took the first steps towards organization and resistance".

Santa Anna never forgot the part played by the citizens of Bastrop in the revolution against Mexico. Accordingly, in his pursuit of the Texas army to the fatal battlefield at San Jacinto, he sent one dimension of his army by the way of Bastrop to wreak vengeance on its then unprotected inhabitants; the manhood of the community being then in the ranks of the Texas army. The town was burned and its women and children driven away before the invading army. This was called the "run-away scrape" of 1836.

Truly, Bastrop is the "city of the pioneers". If the rippling laughter of the Colorado could be translated into the syllables of man's tongue, it might tell a story no writer may conceive.

Bastrop was simply the point at which the old military road leading from Bexar to Nacogdoches crossed the Colorado and was known as the San Antonio Crossing.

The town and county were called Bastrop in memory of Felipe Henrique Neri, Baron de Bastrop. He was a native of Prussia, and became a soldier of fortune under Frederick the Great. He subsequently went into the service of the King of Spain and was sent by that monarch on a special mission to Mexico. When Louisiana was ceded to France, Baron de Bastrop went to San Antonio to reside. He was one of the Alcaldes when Moses Austin visited San Antonio in December, 1820.

Coleman, with a company of Bastrop citizens and others were in Gonzales to help repel the Mexicans, whose only ostensible purpose proved to be the recovery of an old cannon, which the citizens had borrowed from the garrison at San Antonio some time before to defend the place against Indians. The cannon being spiked, was useless, but the Indians were afraid of a noise.

This old cannon (an iron six-powder) was scoured and mounted on an old wooden truck, transverse sections of trees with holes in the centers, and christened "The flying artillery", and they cut slugs of bar iron and hammered them into balls.

All settlers were called into Bastrop in the Spring of 1836. Santa Anna, with a large force, was marching upon the poorly protected frontier and all forces were ordered to go to Gonzales.

Families gathered here, preparatory to a general hegira, before the ruthless invaders who were said to be waging a war of extermination. The moving was necessarily hard, so picked guards were put on the San Antonio road. Eight men were detailed, but before the complete "hegira", the Alamo was taken and all men were ordered to return to Bastrop. They were two days and nights, and most of them only reached Cedar Creek on their return. Bastrop was depopulated, excepting a company of twenty-two men. These sunk all the boats on the river and started down on the east side, and had gone only ten miles when a courier gave orders to remain at Bastrop and get as many of the cattle over to the east bank as possible.

The river was up and raging and all boats had been sunk. After a few days, at Caldwell's place, a canoe was found, and a party reached Bastrop. They got no cattle across.

One sentinel, at the ford as guard, woke and saw six hundred Mexicans on the opposite side of the river. He was in such a hurry he nearly forgot Jim Curtice, the pickett. He was found leaning on a tree, whiskey by his side, and he was happy. "Ride for life" was given to him as a command, and he said, "Let's drink to their confusion".

Colonel Knight, an early white settler in Texas and proprietor of the trading post at Fort Bend, came to Bastrop and saw, in front of a store, a number of grinding stones, with a chain passed through the eyes and fastened with a padlock. He cast a contemptuous look and said, "God Smithwick, the better sort must have got here. Do you remember how I used to pile my goods out on the river bank and leave them for days at a time? I never lost a pin's worth. We used to hear fellows with store clothes on lamenting the crude state of society and consoling themselves that the 'better sort' would come on after awhile. There," pointing to the padlocked grindstones, "is indisputable evidence."

Noah Smithwick received an invitation to Sammie Craft's, below Bastrop, to witness the marriage of his step-daughter, Claudice Thompson, to David Holderman, Bastrop's principal merchant. Mr. Craft had a good home, a plank floor, which few had. All of the "elite" were invited to partake of the genial hospitality. The bridegroom had on store bought clothes but there were many home-spun suits and the old reliable buck-skin. Many of the ladies had on silks, and the styles varied according to the age in which the costumes were made. Harriet Craft, the daughter and afterwards the mother of Mrs. Lizzie Wilkes, was there, and by her presence at this bountiful feast, made life gayer. The table was spread and the coffee pot kept hot all night, and the guests partook of refreshments whenever they so desired. The men took their rifles along for protection from Indians.

Many of the floors, in that day, were made of puncheons, but it mattered not, for when young folks danced those days, they shuffled, and double-shuffled, wired and cut the pigeon's wing.

Buck-skin was sufficient for dry weather. Jimmy Manning, not long in Texas, was caught in a rain and drenched. He got off his horse and found his pantaloons had lightened a foot or so, and were as unmanageable as a jelly fish, so he cut the extra length off with his knife, went to a fire and dried. The breeches began a retrograde movement, perceiving which, he reached down and stretched them out again; but they were on the retreat, and by the time the buckskin reached its normal condition had put a safe

distance between them and the top of his shoes. Jim didn't wait for the rain to stop, but struck out for Bastrop to procure clothing of a more stable character.

Noah Smithwick cut the first seals (three in number) of office for Bastrop County, used by County Judge Andrew Rabb, Sheriff Richard Vaughn and County Clerk William Gorham.

They were made of pieces broken from a six inch shell, of which there were a number lying around town.

One of the shells Conrad Rohren, a teamster in government employ, brought from the Alamo as a trophy.

Others were left when Gaona's division of the Mexican army came on to Bastrop, in the spring of 1836. They expected to find the town fortified and came prepared to shell them out, but finding Bastrop abandoned and being in haste to join Santa Anna, they left the shells and quite likely, other heavy missiles, as the roads were very wet and boggy.

Having no appliances for melting the metal, Mr. Smithwick laid the shell, which was about an inch thick, on the anvil and broke it with a sledge hammer, dressing the blocks down to their required size and shape with chisels.

The first mail routes were opened long before the advent of postage, and the charge for letters was twenty-five cents, payable at either end of the line. Letters were few and far between.

Rates of postage as late as 1845 for a single letter less than one hundred miles was ten cents; a ten ounce package, less than one hundred miles, was forty cents.

Mail was carried on horse back and in stage coaches, at this time.

The horses were changed all along the route, and Bastrop was a stage stand.

Col. J. C. Higgins, in 1840, was engaged to run a sawmill east of town and in 1842 he bought the mill. He ran the saw mill while his wife fired the engine. Many of the old homes now stand that were built of lumber hauled from his mill, on wagons drawn by oxen. The largest portion of my home is built of this lumber. There were few nails then, so wooden pegs were used instead.

The residence owned by H. G. Griesenbeck, better known as the Buchanan home, when remodeled, was found to be put together with wooden pegs.

The lumber from the Higgins mill was brought to town and dried in a kiln where the home of Woodie Townsend was built.

Most of the houses built in San Antonio in pioneer days were made from lumber hauled from this sawmill on wagons drawn by twelve or more oxen.

Kenneth Murchison, in 1842, manufactured hats.

A little later, there were corn-mills, one run by water-power, at the mouth of Piney; a wood-shop at the foot of the hills for making wagons; cotton gins; a factory for the making of thread with which to spin cloth.

The canoe being the early means of transportation across the Colorado, I can seem to feel the rejoicing when Mr. Hugh K. McDonald ran a ferry in 1851. This was a great convenience, and a commercial assistance to our town. Mr. McDonald sold this ferry to my grandfather, R. S. Green, in 1867, and he continued to run it till the early 80's, when it was sold to Mr. Chester Erhard, and he continued its operation till the first bridge was built in 1891.

The flood of 1869 was then the all-absorbing topic. Back-water caused Piney Creek and Gill's Branch to overflow, and meet in the center of the town. The river rose to sixty feet. Couriers warned the citizens to move to the hills on the east and most of them heeded. This flood has gone down into our town's history.

The Indians committed so many outrages that it became necessary to garrison the frontier.

Bastrop County suffered more from Indians during the year 1836 than for any other years of its history.

Though murders along the Colorado were less numerous in 1837-38 than those committed in other sections, a number of good men went down before the aim of the Comanches.

They made a raid into Bastrop in daylight, running off about fifty horses with which they escaped to the mountains, where they were safe from pursuit.

A party of Lipans, out on a hunt, in the winter of 1839 discovered an encampment of Comanches up on the San Gabriel. These two tribes being enemies, as the Lipans were too weak in number to attack the camp alone, they hastened into the settlement and gave alarm, offering to assist in dislodging the Comanches.

Captain Eastland raised a company of thirty men in LaGrange and Noah Smithwick was made captain of about the same number of Bastrop men.

Primitive as the Indians weapons were, they gave them an advantage over the old single-barrell muzzle loading rifle in the matter of rapid shooting, an advantage which told heavily in a charge. An Indian could discharge a dozen arrows while a man was loading a gun.

Indians, with few exceptions, always chose a

dark night, a rainy one preferred for stealing.

When the first colonists went up to Bastrop, Martin Wells was the leader, he having had experience with Indian tactics during the Creek War. One evening, some of the boys reported having seen Indians skulking around. They were not particularly hostile at that time, so Marty Wells at once surmised that they were bent on mischief. "Boys," said he, "They are after our horses, but we'll fool them this time. We'll go and stake out our horses and then take our guns and watch them, and when the Indians come up to steal them, we'll shoot the rascals."

They did as he said, and returned to get their supper. The Indians wasted no time, and escaped with the horses. Some of the boys laughed and the old man didn't like the joke.

The soft night wind of 1837 regaled the nostrils of early Bastropians with the mingled fragrance of the millions of wild flowers with which nature so lavishly adorned the hills and prairies ere the advent of the white man forced them, like their contemporaries, the Indians, and the buffalo, to give place to prosy corn and cotton.

The Texas Indians were unlike those of other sections of the country as they subsisted entirely on meat.

A peculiarity of the Comanche was his abstinence from whiskey; few of them even ventured to taste it; old Chief Muguara alone showing signs to dawning civilization by occasionally indulging.

On one occasion, Mr. Smithwick escorted the old chief and his head wife into Palmer and Kuiney's store, and was assisting the wife in bartering her buffalo robes and buckskins for calico and tobacco, when in came a couple of young ladies of his acquaintance, and they were all embarrassed.

Life on the frontier was a lonesome thing at best, broken only by occasional raids of the Indians.

In those days and for many long years thereafter, goods for all the upper Colorado were brought from Houston by ox-teams; slow transportation under the most favorable conditions, and when the rain transformed the black soil into vast beds of wax, they were sometimes two months on the trip.

Finding a priest or preacher to perform a marriage was a great problem in the early days of the 1820's and 1830's. Under the Mexican law, which was the only law up to 1836, no one but a priest could perform a legal marriage ceremony, and the priests were only to be had in a few missions. The ingenious pioneers used a system called "marriage by bond." The couple entered into a contract in writing, duly signed and attested by witnesses, binding themselves together as husband and wife, and agreeing to ratify the bargain in legal form as soon as law should be passed.

Governor Sayers' Bible Given To First Methodist Church

The family Bible belonging to Governor Joseph D. Sayers, formerly of Bastrop, was presented to the First Methodist Church here in 1926.

The following letter concerning it was written to Mrs. B. D. Orgain, mother of Mrs. W. B. Ransome: February 1, 1926

Dear Mrs. Orgain,

It is to me a sincere regret that I cannot be with you next Sunday.

Please say to the congregation that the Bible, which we, my wife and I, prize highly, goes to the church with our best wishes for its long, continued prosperity and service.

Sincerely yours,
JOSEPH D. SAYERS

The Bible was presented when the present Methodist Church was dedicated, and is still in use in the church for special services. It is bound in heavy red leather and has the letters "J. D. Sayers" in gold printed on it.

Bastrop Court Adjourned For Annexation Celebration

(Taken from a history of Bastrop as compiled by Margaret Bell Jones in 1936)

"District court was in session in Bastrop when the news came that the bill for the annexation of Texas had passed the United States Congress and received the approval of President Polk. Judge Robert E. B. Baylor, who was presiding, in announcing the glad tidings, quoted Chief Justice Marshall as saying that "No man should be considered drunk on Independence day, so long as he could pronounce the word 'Epsom,'" and added that in his opinion the same rule should apply to that occasion; and he therefore adjourned court till 10 o'clock the next morning, that we might celebrate, and celebrate we did with a will.

"In the absence of cannon, we brought out all the anvils the town could muster, and taking up a collection to pay for powder, proceeded to get all the noise possible out of them. Had there been any Indians anywhere in hearing they would probably have gotten away from that vicinity in short order—"

"Evolution of a State," by
Noah Smithwick

Cattle Industry In Bastrop County Dates Back To 1800's

By Kleber Trigg, Jr.

Our county is a neatly shaped, almost rectangular piece of state terrain located in the eastern part of Central Texas and consisting of 885 square miles of territory.

Since it was organized as such in 1836, and named for Baron de Bastrop, one of Stephen F. Austin's most important followers, this county has derived most of its annual revenue from the production and sale of agricultural commodities. Geographically, about three fourths of its area consists of East Texas timber land, which to anyone familiar with soil areas, means earth of a sandy nature, covered with pine or the common oak species and lacking somewhat in most of the necessary soil nutrients for crop lands. About one fifth of our area—that bordering Travis County to the northwest is black land prairie soil similar to the heavier, dark lands of Travis and Williamson Counties. Then we have a small extension of black clay jutting out of Lee County in the vicinity of Paige that shows more similarity to the Gulf Coast type of prairie soils.

The Colorado River is the only other important factor contributing to our soil make-up. It meanders for more than fifty miles almost through the center, traveling in a lazy, north-south direction, and during the centuries that have passed, countless tons of top soil brought down with floods from the fertile lands drained by head waters, have rested in varying degrees of depth along its course to give Bastrop County somewhere between fifty and seventy-five thousand acres of alluvial bottom lands.

Generally speaking, we are not a rich county by nature of our fields and ranges, but over the years, individual management has kept us apace with the Nation's production, although a tremendous waste is evident by the scarcity of remaining top soils.

The beginning of our cattle era dates back to the early eighteen hundred's, about the time of our organization as a county. Although no statistics are available as to numbers present then, several thousand head would probably cover this amount until near the turn of the century, when the introduction of barbed wire made fencing an easy matter. Until that time, all range lands were open and only fields were fenced. Split cedar rails were used in the construction of these, and until recent years some old rail fences could be seen standing in a state of remarkable preservation.

Early cattle were mostly longhorns, showing very few breed characteristics. They were blue, brindle or spotted, with backgrounds of old European dairy and beef cattle having developed hardy physical characteristics of their own running on the open ranges of the southwest. Cattle had to be driven to Kansas or even farther to be marketed in those days, and Bastrop County was a transit point, for many of the large herds gathered for the trail around Waelder, Weimer, Shiner and other towns to the south of us. Numerous bunches of Bastrop County steers joined these large herds and there are still family names present in our town of Bastrop that were familiar on the roll call of trail drivers in those days.

With the approach of the twentieth century and modern fencing methods, our agriculture tended to drift toward more crop farming, and unfortunately with little regard for the future fertility of the soil. For around sixty or seventy years, cotton and corn flourished on a high plain, and though the reserve of soil nutrients was small, farmers produced fair crops because harmful insects were scarce, and their lands relatively new.

During this time most of the cattle population of the state was in the western half where rainfall was scarce and crops were a poor risk. This trend in agriculture mounted through World War I and carried on through the 1920's. Then came the thirties with a depression second to none. Little was it realized that much of our farm land here in Bastrop County had seen its last cotton and corn farming. A new era in agriculture was under way and we were right in the middle of it. Cattle numbers were increasing in proportion from west to east with each longitude, and the reasons for the change were becoming more evident. A large increase in the individual's annual red meat consumption, along with other meat products, called for more and better grades of meat supplies. Higher costs of production demanded cheaper feeds, and rainfall was the key to this necessity. The further east you went, the more you got, and modern fertilizing methods made improved green pastures the coming thing.

Here in Bastrop County we receive an annual rainfall of 37.42 inches, suitable to the growth of most grasses and legumes. We fell in line with the movement and are continuing to do so. Census statistics show that we had 23,158 cattle present on 1928 farms in the year 1930; 27,525 cattle on 2100 farms in 1940; and 41,529 cattle on 1599 farms in 1950. Though the number of farms stated here are probably correct, the cattle numbers would be nearer so if multiplied by two.

Census numbers are volunteered and, though strictly confidential, individuals by nature seem to cut their actual numbers considerably. For instance in 1930, when the government started its cattle killing program of old cows and culls, Bastrop County listed more than 17,000 of these to be killed, while the total census showed only 23,158 cattle present in the county. This 17,000 head listed for slaughter had to be considerably less than half the total population, based upon the most liberal figures used by the government.

Regardless of the inaccuracy of these census statistics, they do represent a trend that is accurate. More cattle on fewer farms as indicated by the drop from 2100, reported in 1940, to only 1599, reported in 1950. One's guess is probably as good as the other's, but somewhere between seventy and one hundred thousand head should catch the cattle population in Bastrop County at present. Probably ninety per cent of these are used solely for beef production, and the other ten per cent for milk cows or commercial dairy herds. While nearly all of our modern beef breeds are represented, Hereford blood is the most predominant, with Brahman, Shorthorn and Angus following in that order. Today our chief market product is the beef calf, and our goal is to increase his size at an earlier age while at the same time improving his conformation and finish for each grade of choice or prime for which the premium prices are paid. This we are doing by leaps and bounds.

In the early days our market product in beef was a steer weighing somewhere in the neighborhood of 800 pounds at four years of age that seldom graded higher than commercial. Through the use of better breeding stock and higher quality supplemental and green feeds we are now producing a 600 pound to 700 pound choice and occasionally prime calf at eight months of age. With further careful selection of parent stock and improvements of feed we will probably raise this figure to eight hundred pounds, and it may not be too far in the future when it will not be unreasonable to sell a thousand pound calf off of a range cow at less than one year of age. That is, if no trend develops, brought about by consumer demand, making a smaller calf more desirable for market. If this does happen, perhaps two smaller cows grazing the grass used by one of these large animals, may raise two small calves on the same amount of feed at a much earlier age. Before the Korean war, this seemed to be the popular trend, brought about when housewives began calling for smaller cuts of beef. With the war and increased demands for larger cuts, light calves became impractical, and from the producers' standpoint at present the larger the calf at weaning time, the better.

A look into the future of Bastrop County's overall beef production program should appear as follows: More and better cattle with improvement in herd sires especially noted. As farm land continues to deplete, more of it will be restored through the use of legume and grass pastures. Commercial fertilizer will become more and more popular in use. There is no doubt that farmers have got to produce more pounds of beef on fewer acres to stay in the business and make a profit. Evidence of this is the large price break cattlemen have undergone during the last nine months. An inflationary period that lasted nearly eighteen years has covered up too many mistakes in the cattle business, and it only takes one adverse year to bring most of them to light. In the face of this, we still have a great wealth of resources for rich, improved pastures if managed properly, here in Bastrop County, and I feel sure that we'll be right in line with progress as we continue to develop them.

Seventh Day Adventist Sabbath Schools Over 100 Years Old

By R. G. WEARNER
District Superintendent, Austin, Texas

Representing the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Bastrop are Mr. and Mrs. John McGee, 1610 Main Street, and Mrs. A. W. Carlisle, 413 Cedar.

Mr. McGee is a veteran of many years of service in the publishing department of his church. He has worked in 18 states in this program of circulation of religious literature.

The Texas Conference Sabbath School department honored Mr. McGee in 1952 as the oldest Sabbath School member in the State of Texas. He has been a member continuously for eighty-four years. This recognition was given on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the denomination's Sabbath Schools, which now have over one million members scattered in many countries around the world.

Mrs. McGee also has a record of work in religious activities in various states, especially in the field of teaching. She has served several years as executive secretary of the Bastrop County Chapter of the Red Cross.

Mr. McGee is also honored in San Antonio as the founder of the first Sabbath School in that city in 1899. This humble organization has now grown into three church organizations, the largest of which has about 450 members.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McGee have had a part in the Adventist Church activities in Elgin, where a new masonry church building was recently constructed.

Colorado River Important Part of Bastrop's Colorful Historical Background

(The following article was compiled by Mrs. W. E. Maynard and presented at the March, 1933, meeting of the Bastrop Historical Society.)

Let us travel back in our imagination to the early 1800's, when the land we now know as the State of Texas was in the process of being settled by white people. We must never forget that it had been settled by Indians and that they had a civilization, even though it was different from ours. That picture comes to us very clearly as we read the book "Indian Depredations" by J. W. Wilbarger. In fact, many of the first settlements by the whites were made by shoving the Indians over further into the wilderness or by destroying them completely.

Another piece of information we find from reading of these early settlers is that they built their homes and communities along the rivers and creeks of Texas. Water is one thing a people have to have in order to exist. Now we begin to see why our forefathers hugged the bank of the Colorado River, rather than establish the town of Bastrop up in our beautiful pine hills. This little story from "Indian Depredations" gives us a vivid picture of this.

"In the winter of 1883, a company of men started from Bastrop to go to the buffalo range, in the same county, that part of it then known as Young's settlement. One portion of the company was to start from the town of Bastrop and the other portion from a point on the river five miles above the town. They had agreed to meet at a certain watering place but the party that started five miles above the town failed to come on time. Those that had arrived were eager to go ahead so they went on the same evening to the buffalo range, filled their wagons with meat and encamped for the night.

"The other party coming afterwards to the appointed place of meeting camped there. About 1 o'clock in the night the fire had burned down and Mr. Taylor Smith got up to rekindle it. As he was stooping over it, an Indian fired at him from a distance of not more than twenty paces. The ball passed through Mr. Taylor's arm, but did not break the bone. The report of the gun awakened the other men, who seized their arms and a regular fight then ensued between them and the Indians. The fight lasted about two hours, the Texans sheltering themselves behind a wagon filled with corn and the Indians behind trees.

"One of the Indians in order to get a fair shot at the boys, crawled up slyly behind them under cover of some bushes. An old gentleman, a Mr. Con, hearing a rustling of the leaves, discovered the Indian crawling upon the ground. He had a large English shot gun in his hand, and waiting until the Indians raised to fire, he leveled his gun and perforated his hide with about a dozen buckshot. The Indian sprang up, crying out "wah! wah!" several times, and then pitched forward upon the ground. As nothing was seen of him afterward, it was supposed he had got his quietus.

"The Indians, finding they could not dislodge the little band of Texans, gathered their forces and left. That same night, they went on to the town of Bastrop. The day previous had been wash day, and many people had left much of their clothing hanging on the lines. The Indians stole the whole of it and about sixty head of horses. On their way, they fell in with the other party who were returning from the buffalo hunt. The writer of this sketch was one of them. There were seven men in the party, and they had to contend with about sixty Indians. Seeing there were but seven of us, they gave a yell and charged upon us at once, anticipating no doubt an easy victory; but in this, they were badly mistaken, for we received them with such a deadly volley from our rifles that they fell back in disorder and finally retreated without making another attempt to renew the fight.

"One Indian had a large white bed quilt crammed full of clothing before him on his horse and a little boy he had taken prisoner behind him. During the row, the little boy tried to jump down, and to prevent him from doing so, the Indian was compelled to let go the bed quilt. In falling, one end of it caught on the horn of the saddle and the clothing was strewn along the ground for a quarter of a mile. We gathered it up and returned it to the owners."

In this story, we begin to get a glimpse of why the river—the clothes had to be washed and that means water.

We go back into our history and find that the town first was called Mina in 1834. Then in December, we find that the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Texas changed the name of Mina to Bastrop. In the Bastrop County records we find this bit of information, recorded on May 10, 1837, as you see just a few

months before the name of the town was changed and while Texas was still a Republic.

"The petition of John A. Moore praying the court to establish his Ferry at the La Bahia crossing (Old San Antonio Road that has its marker now near Old Ferry Park) on the Colorado River was considered. It is therefore: Ordered that the John A. Moore Ferry at the La Bahia crossing be and is hereby established as a public Ferry. John A. Moore produced his bond agreeable to law which was received and ordered to record. Ordered that a license be issued to John A. Moore, allowing him to keep a public ferry at the La Bahia crossing on the Colorado River. A. Rabb, Justice; Samuel Craft, Associate Justice, and William Gorham, Clerk."

Now we see the town of Bastrop turning from just a settlement into a town with businesses and industries. As the river played its important role with the early settlers, now we see it affording a way for the people to make a livelihood. This is the first record we have of the business of running a ferry. In the records we find these others: "Permits for Ferries, December 5, 1847, let to the highest bidder. February 6, 1847, let to Stephen Davis. May 21, 1849, G. Kuykendall permitted to establish a Ferry. February 1, 1850, Bastrop Ferry leased to N. B. Tanner, rates fixed by City. August 18, 1851, Ferry at Bastrop leased to Wm. R. Redding. March 1, 1853, Wm. B. McGehee permitted to establish Ferry at Bastrop. February 1859, Grimes and Irvine permitted to establish a Ferry at Bastrop. August, 1859, Corporation at Bastrop permitted to establish a Ferry at Bastrop. The last record we have is March 30, 1885, license issued to M. E. Anderson and George Orts for Ferry at Bastrop."

Another industry that the river helped to carry on in those early days was that of timber from the pine forests surrounding Bastrop. We find this information in the records at the Bastrop Court House.

"At the February term of court of 1854 D. C. Campbell and McDonald applied to this court praying to be granted the privilege of the river and the use of the river bank, stating that they are desirous of establishing a Float Mill in the Colorado River opposite the court house in the town of Bastrop, (the court house at that time stood where the Locker Plant now stands) and praying the court to grant them the privilege of the lot known as the old court house lot in the same name for the purpose of depositing of the timber for said mill and framing and building the same. The court having deliberated on same, it was ordered and decided by the court that the said Campbell and McDonald be allowed to use the lot or ground known as the old court house lot and further allowed to erect their said Float Mill on the Colorado River, but expressly prohibited from obstructing same so as to prevent the navigation of said river by the Water Mockasin, a steam boat now on the docks.

A story in the "Indian Depredations" gives another bit of information on the use of the pine in the Bastrop forests.

"It was in the fall of the same year that White's Negro was killed by the Indians while hauling lumber from Bastrop to Austin. When the city of Austin was first settled, lumber for building purposes was very scarce. There was a good 'pinery' however, below, in Bastrop County from which people of Austin obtained supplies. A gentleman by the name of Hamilton White had a contract for hauling lumber to Austin, and he kept his Negro boy, a young fellow about twenty years old, pretty constantly engaged in hauling. The distance was about thirty-five miles.

"In the fall of 1839, Mr. White started his Negro boy from Bastrop with a load of lumber and three hundred dollars in money to pay a debt due in Austin. The Negro was alone. He went on his way unmolested, and the second day he reached the house of Mr. Rueben Hornsby, eight miles below Austin. He remained there all night and loitered around for some time the next morning, saying he was afraid to go on, as there was no settlement between there and Austin. Mrs. Hornsby told him if he was afraid, he had better remain until he could get company. He said he was afraid but his master had told him not to delay on the road, and evidently with great reluctance, he went on. When he arrived at Walnut Creek bottom, about six miles from town, he was shot and killed by Indians, who were concealed in a dogwood thicket near by.

"The writer of this, in company with another gentleman, happened to pass the spot shortly afterward, when we discovered the Negro. We supposed at first that he was asleep, but upon a nearer approach, we found he was killed and scalped. My companion became greatly alarmed when he found the Negro had been killed by Indians. I told him there was no cause for alarm as the danger was over and the Indians gone, but he paid no attention to what I said. He put spurs to his horse and was soon lost sight of in the brush."

From this next bit of information we see the river taking a part in the educational and cultural growth of our town. In our court records, we find this record as of that term of Court, October 28, 1848: A committee that had been appointed by Chief Justice James Smith of Bastrop

County with the approval of the mayor and aldermen of Bastrop gives this report.

The committee had been appointed to see about building a new court house and a female academy. The committee said they found that the court house should just be repaired and built on to, and the jail left as it was, but this is the report in full on the Female Academy:

"This committee are of the opinion that it would be most advisable to lease the Ferry for a term of years not exceeding five, (allowing all jurors attending the District Court, the officers of County Court in attending regular term of said court, and all ministers of the Gospel the privilege of crossing free of charge) and the proceeds arising from the sale of the lease of said Ferry to be applied to the erection of the Female Academy which your committee deemed to be of the greatest importance of any matter submitted for our consideration and urge and request the united action of your honorable bodies for the speedy action and completion of the Academy and we would further recommend that the mayor donate to the building of the Academy the proceeds arising from the Steam Mill of the present year. The committee was from the county, D. F. Brown, Hamilton White, and from the city, Preston Conlee and Sam B. Morris."

In Miss Bell Jones' book, "Bastrop," we find this account of the Steam Mill. "For many years the chief wealth of Bastrop County consisted in a large tract of pine timber. Bastrop became the seat of lumber mills from which nearly all the pine lumber used in West Texas was supplied. The pine was in an isolated tract and after Austin had been made the State Capitol and with the progress of government beyond the Colorado this timber furnished a very important commodity. The pine used in constructing the first State House at Austin was sawed at Bastrop.

"On December 24, 1838, President Lamar approved an act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas to incorporate the "Bastrop Steam Mill Company." The object of this company was to operate by steam power or otherwise in Texas a saw mill, a grist mill, a planing mill, a lath and shingle mill to prepare materials and erect public and private buildings, stores and offices upon contract.

Jacob C. Higgins, an orphan boy reared as an own son by his cousins, Governor and Mrs. Arastus Fairbanks of Vermont, first engaged in sawmilling in Bastrop in 1840 and was associated with Mr. Abner H. Cook whose interest Mr. Higgins purchased in 1844. Mr. Higgins devoted his attention to the lumber industry at Bastrop for thirty years and thereby amassed a handsome fortune.

K. H. Grimes operated a sawmill at Bastrop in the early days. R. H. Grimes was a son of Jesse Grimes, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence March 2, 1836 and who was, also, a member of the committee appointed to draft a constitution for Texas. Albert C. Grimes, a brother of R. H. Grimes, fell in defense of the Alamo.

In 1847, the corporation of Bastrop granted Samuel W. Sims and Elial M. Smith the privilege of erecting a saw and grist mill on the corporation lands.

Major A. M. Brooks, who built the J. L. Wilbarger home in Bastrop and who was known for his service to humanity in rearing orphan children, operated a sawmill about 1850 nears Sayers, Texas.

While the lumber industry was flourishing around Bastrop, lumber was transported to points west in trains of ox wagons. Usually six yoke of oxen were attached to a wagon and there were twenty or thirty wagons in a train.

Another business now emerges on our river, that of river traffic. Miss Jones tells in her book of two of the boats they plied up and down the river carrying passengers and cargo.

"On April 7, 1851, the side wheel steamboat, "Colorado" arrived at Austin from Matagorda, Douglass in charge. This was regarded as an important event by the people of Travis County. Nearly every one, from far and near, turned out to welcome the boat. It was a novel sight to those who had been reared on the frontier. Many of the young people had never seen a steam vessel of any sort. Capt. Douglass asserted that the river could be safely navigated by small steamboats most of the year. The boat left Austin on the afternoon of the second day on its return trip.

"A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at the capitol building. Dr. S. G. Haynie was called to the chair. After organization, Hon. A. J. Hamilton was called upon for a speech, who descended upon the rostrum with possibilities by the arrival of the boat. When he had concluded his liberally applauded remarks, the thanks of the meeting were tendered the enterprising Capt. Douglass and his crew for the pluck and enterprise they had displayed in making the trip, and as a farther and more substantial token of appreciation, a purse of six hundred dollars was raised and presented to the captain to help defray the expense of the trip. On the down trip, the boat took aboard a large load of pine lumber at Bastrop; and on reaching La Grange on the 14th, added 400 bales of cotton to her cargo. She arrived safely at the head of the raft on the 19th, and a few days thereafter returned up the river, but not so far as Austin—in fact she never re-visited the capitol city, though she remained successfully in the trade on the lower

river for some time. While on the first trip, the boat grounded on a sand bar just below La Grange, but was gotten off.

"On March 5, 1853, the steamboat "Colorado" was stove in and sank about ten miles below La Grange. This was the boat that visited Austin, in April, 1851, in charge of Capt. Douglass. It was not suited to the river, as it drew too much water."

"In 1854, Captain W. W. Knowles, an Ohio man who had become interested in river navigation in Texas, piloted the steamboat "Water Mockasin" to Austin on the crest of a big rise in the Colorado. As the river fell before the boat could get away, it had to remain at Austin for another rise for its down trip. The "Water Mockasin" was doubtless built at Bastrop; it was christened here by Miss Mattie Moore, a sister of Judge Dyer Moore, on a sandbar a short distance below Bastrop, and being considered of no further use for navigation, was dismantled.

"Mrs. Mary Jane Gill of Bastrop saw the "Water Mockasin" on its visit to Austin in 1854. She recalls a ride up the river on it, clinging to her father's hand as they boarded the boat. It was just above the great raft at the mouth of the Colorado. The flags were flying and the bands were playing and the people shouting. The whistle blew and the boat began to move up the river. People along the banks of the Colorado cheered its journey."

Another use of the river has been for recreation. The river has been used for bathing, of course, from the first of the settlers and by the Indians. But that bathing would, I imagine, come more under the head of necessity rather than a pleasure, but as pleasure we know it was used along about 1885. According to Mrs. Maggie Green, she and her friends and family used the river back of the old Fowler home for swimming. The girls used their old "Mother Hubbards" as swim suits in those days. As time passed on and Mrs. Green moved into her present home on South Main, she and her friends and family still used the river back of this home for swimming. At this time, along about 1913, the girls came in their modern bathing suits. The first time they appeared in these suits, Mrs. Green found she was quite shocked at their appearance. (What of the ones that we appear in in 1953?)

Along in the early 1900's, Mrs. O. P. Jones recalls that there was a park on the river where our present Old Ferry Park is. Mrs. Jones' husband made a set of willow furniture for this park, no doubt one of the first sets of outdoor furniture.

Along about 1913 the city put water hydrants at this same spot and it was used by transients as a place to camp. In 1939, the Health Department declared the camp unsanitary, so the city removed the water hydrants and the spot became an unsightly dumping ground.

The civic committee of the Reading Circle got ambitious in 1949, and decided to build a park on this spot. This park is now a reality. Through a House Concurrent Resolution, recently introduced by Bastrop County Representative E. A. (Charlie) Woods, Jr., the Old Ferry Park has been designated as a state historical shrine, and named the Old Ferry Park Historical Shrine. This resolution was passed and signed by Governor Allan Shivers, and a copy of it appeared on the front page of the Bastrop Advertiser. The Old Ferry Park is a project developed by the Ladies Reading Circle, and has been developed from the rough strip of river bank that it was into a park with picnic tables and outdoor fireplaces, and picturesque steps winding down the bank to the river. More tables and barbecue pits are on the lower bank.

Through the efforts of the civic improvement committee of the club, Mrs. W. E. Maynard, Mrs. J. G. Bryson and Mrs. E. C. Erhard, the park is being further landscaped this year, and plans are being made to have it lighted.

Because of its location, the club helped to begin the Historical Society, and the construction of a museum, with the park as a nucleus.

The formal opening of the museum was held on Sunday, March 15, with a silver tea under the sponsorship of the Historical Society and the Reading Circle. The museum is located at 702 Main Street. The brick from which the building was constructed came from the kilns which were located where the R. E. Standifer home now stands, on the bank of the Colorado, where Piney Creek runs into the river.

The river has also been used as a source of food from the first of the settlers until the present time, the food being the fish that the fishermen have been proud and thrilled to take from the waters of the Colorado.

In 1949, the city decided to give the fishermen a place to dock their boats, so some docks were built by the city employees on the banks of the river at the foot of Farm Street. Some tables and furnaces were built and this is known as Fisherman's Park.

It was decided in 1949 at the Homecoming to have a Fisherman's boat race starting at the Montopolis bridge at Austin and ending at Fisherman's Park at Bastrop. This is a distance of 55 miles, the longest such race in the world and one of the few such race courses in the United States. This has proven one of the most attractive events of the

Annual Bastrop Homecoming. The docks are also very popular with fishermen and boatmen from all over the State of Texas.

I'd like to conclude my history of the river with the poem written by our townswoman, Mrs. Eva H. L. Karling:

MEMORIES OF THE OLD FERRY PARK

Eva Hill LeSueur Karling

The Old Ferry Park! Ah! My memory turns back
To the long, long ago, when the Ferry was here;
When oxen-drawn wagons with cotton were crossing
And the shouts and halloos of the drivers I hear.

The crack of the long plaited whip, and the crunching
Of wagon wheels sound on the gravelly shore.
There were horsemen, and women on side-saddles
With them,

In long riding skirts, which ladies then wore!
There were carriages drawn by fine horses, with
coachmen

Riding outside; within, behind windows of glass,
Rode the fair ladies in crinoline and hoop skirts—
Such pictures, in fancy, I see as they pass.
So slowly the cables unwinding the Ferry
Drift over the river's deep, rolling tide,
The Ferryman turning the big wheel that directs
it,

And the Ferry Boat reaches the opposite side.
No stately steamer upon the wide ocean
Was ever more thrilling or wondrous to see,
Than the Ferry Boat, slowly and dreamily crossing
Colorado's wide waters, long ago, was to me.

Decades have brought changes, and the Old Ferry
now
Is only a page in our history's store
Of customs—of romance—of memories heroic,
And our Old Ferry Park gets its name from that
lore!

This And That About Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

In 1875, Antonio M. Erhard wrote:

"I came with my parents to the United States in 1837. Settled in New Jersey.

"In the year 1839, there was a great influx of immigration to Texas.

"We came to Texas and arrived in Galveston the latter part of October, 1839. The first news we received, when the pilot came on board, was that yellow fever was raging in Galveston and Houston. A few days later, my father died in Houston. My mother was left with young children, and she could not even speak English.

"We remained for some time in Houston. My uncle's family moved to Bastrop in 1840. I, being the oldest of my mother's children, went with my uncle.

"Uncle bought a twelve acre farm near Bastrop. We all helped with the farming. Both my uncle and aunt died shortly after we moved on the farm. They left two orphaned boys, Cayton and Adolph Erhard.

"So there were three of us unprotected, and we had to shift for ourselves. God takes care of the little ones, and so were we. James Nicholson, Bastrop gentleman, stood by us and became our protector.

"Cayton and I were placed in suitable occupation until the summer of 1841, at which time the Santa Fe Expedition was set on foot by the Republic of Texas.

"Cayton Erhard and I joined this adventurous expedition. Later, we were all taken prisoners not far from San Miguel, New Mexico. Had it not been for the Mexican women, who, when opportunity offered, gave us something to eat as we marched along, we would have starved."

One of the best known men in Bastrop County died in 1874—W. J. Cain, the man who established the Bastrop Advertiser in March, 1853.

Mr. Cain was born at Huntsville, Alabama, on March 13, 1831. He came to Texas in 1853. His brother, Thos. C. Cain, had purchased the Bastrop Advertiser in 1871.

Mrs. E. J. Orgain opened a public free school under the school law, in the Academy Building, in 1875. Mrs. Orgain was well-known as an excellent teacher.

The Excelsior College, Bastrop, Texas, began its fifth annual session in 1875. . . . The faculty consisted of Prof. H. C. Cooke, Mrs. Mary McDowall, Mrs. Sallie McCoy and Mrs. K. Petway.

The Bastrop City Band played concerts at Casino Hall in 1875. No charge to the public.

Dr. C. Erhard, one of the trustees, said that Mrs. Mollie McDowall had accepted the musical department of the Excelsior College, for the next term. In 1873.

The second annual Bastrop County Fair was held in 1912.

The Citizens State Bank of Bastrop opened for business on February 1, 1909. The directors of the bank were Paul D. Page, Hugh Barton, Woody Townsend, J. L. Wilbarger, J. T. Cryrup, John Barton, H. J. Kesselus and H. B. Combs.

United Gas Brought To Bastrop In October Of 1934

Many long-time Bastrop residents, looking back over the past two decades, still remember clearly the excitement and holiday atmosphere on the courthouse lawn one early fall night in 1934.

That was the October evening when anxious crowds gathered to see their city officials light a giant gas flare, signaling the start of natural gas service and the end of cooking and heating drudgery.

With the turn of a valve, starting the flow of gas into homes, stores and offices, Bastrop became a member of a large family of hundreds of cities, towns and rural areas which are served by United Gas.

Since that historic celebration more than 20 years ago, United Gas has kept pace with the dynamic region it serves by adding to its system many thousands of miles of transmission and distribution lines, larger gas reserves in new fields, and powerful compressors to move gas to the ultimate consumers. These and numerous other facilities have been added and improved to provide the best possible gas service for hundreds of thousands of residential, commercial and industrial customers.

While United Gas has continually expanded its facilities through the years, the largest construction program in the company's history began in 1951 and was due for completion recently. Included in this expansion program were construction of some 1,700 additional miles of transmission lines, eleven compressor stations, built or enlarged; eleven dehydration plants, five suspension-type bridges to carry pipelines over rivers, extension of United's distribution system, an extensive program of exploration and drilling and gathering lines to connect additional reserves of gas to the pipeline system.

All of this construction took place in an area which the company calls the Gulf South. In this rapidly growing region, rich in natural resources, the United Gas system serves parts of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, extends to Mobile in southern Alabama and to Pensacola in North western Florida, and to the International Boundary at Laredo.

Used both as a fuel and raw material, the plentiful supply of clean, dependable natural gas is one of the outstanding factors in the commercial and industrial progress throughout Texas and the entire Gulf South.

As an economical and versatile fuel, it is used extensively in heavy industries such as steel mills, power plants, paper mills, oil refineries, cement plants and sugar refineries. In the newer field of petrochemistry—of which Texas is one of the leading states—natural gas along with other natural resources has helped create an almost unlimited array of new products, including plastics and synthetic fibers.

While natural gas is constantly at work in the plants and factories which manufacture the products used in this region and elsewhere, this modern fuel is best known to most people in the home where it contributes so much to comfortable and convenient living.

Modern homemakers recognize natural gas as ideal for preparing delicious food, year-around air-conditioning, heating water, clothes drying, home heating and incineration. Its convenience is unsurpassed, and it is one of the few items in the family budget which has remained virtually unchanged in cost over the past 20 years. That is why residential customers say that natural gas is truly the biggest bargain in the home today.

In addition to providing economical and dependable natural gas service, United Gas makes a worthwhile contribution to the area it serves by sponsoring and encouraging activities designed to train young men and young women to assume responsibilities of leadership in all phases of life.

Through one of these youth activities—the Texas 4-H Club Junior Leadership training program—hundreds of Texas 4-H Club boys and girls from every section of the state for several years have enjoyed a week of training and recreation at Bastrop State Park, one of Texas' most beautiful and best equipped parks.

In Texas, as well as Louisiana and Mississippi, United Gas sponsors 4-H Junior Leadership training programs in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Services of the respective states.

The Junior Leadership program in this state, in addition to the annual week-long laboratory, includes four expense paid trips to the National 4-H Club Camp in Washington, D. C., and two expense paid trips to the American Youth Foundation Leadership Training Camp at Shelby, Mich. Last year United Gas increased the scope of the annual Junior Leadership training program by sponsoring of the meetings and activities of the state committee of the Texas 4-H Club Council. This group of 29 outstanding 4-H Club boys and girls plans much of the statewide program for some 117,000 4-H Club members.

PLANS FOR RAILROAD IN BASTROP MADE IN 1885

(The following article was taken from an issue of the Advertiser in March 1885)

On Tuesday last our town received as visitors Messrs. Hoxie, Welsh, Threadgill and Riley, of Taylor, and Messrs. Rivers and Bassist of Elgin, who were here for the purpose of conferring with our people on the all important subject of the Taylor, Elgin and Bastrop Railroad. It acquired but a glance to observe that these gentlemen were representative men of their respective communities, feeling as much interest in the speedy construction of the road as we of Bastrop, and that their visit on this occasion strictly meant business, which was just what the people of Bastrop desired, at this time, most to see.

At four o'clock a goodly number of our town people, as well as a number from country, met with these gentlemen in the office of Hon. J. D. Sayers, whereupon the meeting was called to order by the election of Hon. A. W. Moore as chairman and T. C. Cain as secretary.

Mr. Welsh of Taylor explained to the meeting the main features of the action already taken in the premises, suggesting that each locality at once take steps to ascertain the amount of subscription each could raise, and that a committee of six—three from Bastrop, one from Elgin and two from Taylor be appointed to visit St. Louis, to confer with the Missouri Pacific authorities and ascertain what, if any, assistance can be had from them in the construction of the road. The motion being unanimously adopted, the meeting selected the following committee: Hons. Geo. W. Jones, Jos. D. Sayers, and A. W. Moore for Bastrop; Capt. J. I. McGinnis for Elgin, and Mr. C. H. Welsh and Dr. John Threadgill for Taylor.

On motion, Messrs. A. B. McLavy and Robert Gill were requested to prepare subscription list for the purchase of depot grounds and right of way.

On motion, it was declared, that should it not be convenient for Capt. J. I. McGinnis, of Elgin, to visit St. Louis with the committee, the citizens of Elgin be authorized to select another committee-man in his stead.

On motion, Messrs. H. P. Luckett, W. C. Powell and Louis Eilers were appointed a committee to confer with the City Council, at its next regular meeting, and see what assistance can be had from the city.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned, after which the committee held a meeting for conference and decided to visit St. Louis some time in the early part of April.

BASTROP ACADEMY IS ESTABLISHED IN 1850

(Taken from a history of Bastrop as compiled by Margaret Bell Jones, June 8, 1936)

According to Volume H of the Deed Records of Bastrop County, Samuel W. Sims, Samuel B. Morris, Thos. B. J. Hill, Josiah W. Whipple, Constant K. Hall, who constituted the Board of Directors of an organization styled the "Bastrop Educational Association", purchased the site for the Academy in 1850 from John D. Hogan and wife for the consideration of \$250. The Academy, a commodious two-story structure of Bastrop pine, was erected and placed under the direction of the Methodist Conference.

The Academy faced the Methodist Church across the street on the south and its cupola sheltered the church bell. On each floor there was an auditorium used as a study hall, the upper study hall for girls and the lower for boys; there was a library well supplied with the work of standard authors; in the music room a teacher trained in Germany gave instruction on the piano; the science department occupied a large room and was well equipped. The Academy was considered truly magnificent in Texas in the 1850's.

The early Academy Schools were "pay" schools and were well patronized by the wealthy classes. A two-story boarding house for out-of-town students was erected on the site of the present J. P. Fowler residence. Families moved into Bastrop to educate their sons and daughters.

In 1872 the Academy was sold to the "Board of School Directors of the County of Bastrop" and for a number of years was occupied by schools operated under the community system. In 1892 Dr. H. P. Luckett purchased the old building and campus, razed the building, and erected on the east side of the former campus a handsome residence.

Bastrop County Facts

A storm caused much damage in Bastrop during the spring of 1900. The Midland Hotel was unroofed. A Mrs. Wilkes was proprietress of the hotel . . . Part of the roof of Meyers Brothers' Store was ripped off by the destructive wind . . . The Negro Methodist Church was lifted from its pillars and set down about eighty feet east of where it formerly stood.

Historical Texas Name In Bastrop

By ALFRED E. MENN

Walking down Main Street, in downtown Bastrop we saw a sign at the head of the stairs of a two-story building. On the sign was the name Meusebach.

To me, that meant one of the most famous names in Texas history.

Walking up the stairs, we asked a lady in the opposite office where we could find Mr. Meusebach. "Oh, he is down in another office on Main Street," she said.

"Could he by any chance be related to the Meusebach family up in Fredericksburg?"

"I believe he is," she remarked.

We walked down the stairs to a building on Main Street, where we found a tall, distinguished looking gentleman. He appeared to be a very busy man.

"Mr. Meusebach?" I asked.

"Yes," he replied, in that booming voice of his. "I am lago Meusebach."

He looked at me as if he thought, "I wonder what the devil he wants!" He then admitted that he was one of the Meusebachs of Fredericksburg. We talked for quite some time.

So, here in Bastrop, was a descendant of two of the best-known families of the Hill Country.

On one side of the family was John O. Meusebach, the titled founder of Fredericksburg, Texas. On the other was Captain Charles H. Nimitz, who became one of the most famous hotel men in the Southwest.

lago's mother was none other than Lena Nimitz Meusebach, wife of E. O. Meusebach, and daughter of Captain Charles H. Nimitz. She passed away only recently.

One of the Nimitz boys, Chester, passed away in 1885. A few months after his death, Chester, Jr., was born, destined to become Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Mr. Meusebach, who is an artist of no small repute, periodically has exhibits of paintings in the Junior League Bright Shawl in San Antonio, and in all Texas Annual Exhibits in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

The Colorado Reveille First Paper In Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

"Uncle Jimmie" Nicholson owned a copy of the old Colorado Reveille, the first paper ever printed in Bastrop. This famous old copy was dated November 29, 1851. Its editor was Henry Desha.

The Colorado Reveille was published by Messrs. Desha and Kelley, and issued every Saturday morning. If you paid cash at once, the price was \$3.00 per year; if you waited until the end of the year to pay, you forked over \$4.00.

The following merchants, doctors and businesses were mentioned in 1851: Poage and McGinnis, Warren Larkins, Phillip Claiborne, Robert Desha, Jr., Scurry and Wynne and Samuel L. Fowler. Drs. Royston and Wood, Gillespie and Reynolds, C. K. Hall, George W. Markham. Miller and Spencer were listed as operators of a livery stable. N. B. Tanner was a gunsmith.

The Colorado Reveille was published some three or four months, when it was suspended. The editor left the town.

"In December, 1852, the press and material were purchased by our brother, William J. Cain," stated Tom C. Cain, editor of the Advertiser.

JAS. P. WOOD FIRST TRADES DAY CHAIRMAN

(Taken from the issue of the Advertiser, August 26, 1937)

Jas. P. Wood was made chairman of the Bastrop Trade Day Association at a committee meeting in the City Hall Tuesday night, when plans were made to inaugurate a monthly Trade Day in Bastrop.

Other officers named at this time were J. T. Hasler, vice chairman; Mrs. Homer Murchison, secretary; Bruno A. Elzner Sr., treasurer. The entertainment committee consists of E. F. Hasler, chairman; and M. E. Rabensburg and L. C. Price. Board members include George Stavinoha, Mrs. S. R. Cochran, Cecil Long, B. B. May, C. B. Maynard, John O. Turner and Mrs. R. E. Standifer.

The first Saturday in each month has been designated as Bastrop's Trades Day, with the merchants offering many values in merchandise, with programs to fill the afternoons with entertainment for visitors, and with no less than \$50.00 in cash prizes to be given away. There will be added inducements from time to time designed to advertise Bastrop and to encourage people to visit Bastrop.

The first of these trades days will be held on Saturday, September 4, 1937.

Bastrop During The 1880's

By Alfred E. Menn

A high wind during March blew down the Bastrop and McDade telegraph line in several places. Jeff Elaylock, alias Jeff Black, died near Red Rock. Just read this man's past record . . . He was accused of killing Green Butler, a wealthy stockman of Clear Creek, Galveston County.

Blaylock stayed in jail six years and eleven months. He was tried more than once, was convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hanged. He was sent to the penitentiary for life; then he was acquitted.

On his death bed, it is reported, Blaylock said he did not kill Butler, but that the killing was done by another, whom he named.

Last night C. Taylor, an old citizen of Bastrop and one of the heroes of San Jacinto, was injured when he tried to shoot at a dog. His face was badly bruised and powder-burned.

G. F. Buel, of Rockport, Illinois, and Mrs. Maggie A. Nicholson, of Bastrop, were married at the Episcopal Church. Later they left for Galveston and Rockport, Illinois.

H. H. Morgan, of Galveston, and Miss Emma Johnson, of Bastrop were married in 1882. The couple made their future home in Galveston.

The contract for carrying the mail between Bastrop and McDade passed from the hands of Green and Napp to Zumwatt and Morris Taylor.

Hon. Wash Jones arrived in Bastrop during the summer of 1882, from Washington, D. C. He announced that he would be an independent candidate for governor at the next election.

W. A. McCord, of Nashville, Tennessee, was married to Miss Sallie E. Powell, of Bastrop, in 1883.

The Casino Hall was going to have a comedy and songs. Also a ball. Admission to the theatre and ball was 50 cents in 1881. The first performance began at 8 p. m.

Ed. B. Burleson, it is said, introduced the first Hereford cattle to the region of Bastrop County. His ranch, across the river from Bastrop contained many fine specimen of the cattle. He once sold six head for \$500 cash in 1881.

In 1881, Albert C. Erhard, of Bastrop was married to an Austin girl, Miss Amelia Bahn, daughter of A. Bahn. Ernard was referred to as one of Bastrop's most deserving young men.

Dyer Moore was the County Judge of Bastrop County in 1881.

Charles Voigt operated a gunshop on Main Street of Bastrop.

The following men were members of the Bastrop Gun Club: W. C. Powell, M. E. Anderson, W. E. Jenkins, James Jenkins, H. P. Luckett, O. F. Nash, B. F. Jones, G. F. Hannay, Dyer Moore and C. R. Haynie.

Men who were Board of Trustees of Bastrop Academy: J. C. Higgins, A. J. Batts, and J. C. Buchanan. Professor A. E. Hill was the principal of Bastrop Academy.

The Colorado Institute, with Mrs. S. J. Orgain as principal, was entering its 24th session in 1884.

T. W. House, banker and merchant of Houston, presented a bell, weighing more than 600 pounds, to the Bastrop Episcopal Church in 1884.

Anderson Grove, a half-mile from Bastrop, was the favorite spot for celebrating "Juneteenth" by the local colored folks. At one time, about six hundred persons attended the picnic and "orating."

Have You Seen Bastrop's

Historical Markers?

By ALFRED E. MENN

See that small building over there, in the south part of town? If it could talk, you'd have a good story.

This is the inscription on the marker: "Site of Confederate Arms Factory. Established by H. B. Tanner in 1862, for the manufacture of guns and bayonets. Continued in operation until 1865."

A Frank Hanke once worked in that famous old arms factory.

Another marker is located in the north part of Bastrop. The inscription reads: "Site of Bastrop Military Institute. A Methodist institution. Chartered January 24, 1852, as Bastrop Academy. Re-chartered under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1853. In 1856, became the Bastrop Military Institute."

Town First Called Mina Later Named Bastrop

(Taken from the Interstate Index December 1920)

The present town of Bastrop was laid out by Stephen F. Austin in 1830 and instead of retaining the first name of the settlement Mina, it was called Bastrop, in honor of Baron de Bastrop, a Prussian soldier who once served under the great Frederick. He offered his services to the King of Spain who sent him on a special mission to Mexico. While Louisiana was under the Spanish dominion, Baron de Bastrop, aided by DeGalvez, obtained a very large grant of land and when Louisiana was resold to France he became a citizen of San Antonio. There he met Austin and became interested in his colonization scheme, and when five leagues of valuable land was assigned this town-tract, it was named for Baron de Bastrop. It is the county seat of Bastrop county and in 1835 this municipality was the first to organize a committee of safety. All who are familiar with the history of Texas know that from the days of the Republic until the present time it has not lacked for brave men and good women. Bastrop furnished her full quota of daring soldiers during the early struggle of the state for independence, and her best men followed the stars and bars during that brief but glorious struggle of the South in the war between the states. The county lies on both sides of the Colorado river and is bordered by Travis, Lee, Fayette and Caldwell counties. The land is rich and the population prosperous. The town is located on the east bank of the river about 32 miles east of Austin on the M. K. & T. railroad. It has some splendid valley plantations where fine crops of cotton, and corn are made, while oats, millet, hay, potatoes, peas, vegetables and fruits are grown profitably. The great variety of soil, the mineral resources, the abundant water supply, the agricultural advantages, the facility for raising fine stock, together with the superior intellectual and moral character of its people make Bastrop County a most desirable place for homeseekers, as well as for profitable investment of capital, in farming, mining, factories, etc.

Already several valuable coal mines are in operation a few miles north of the town furnishing quantities of cheap fuel. The cutting of cedar as well as pine has been a profitable industry.

The climate is mild and pleasant, no extremes of heat or cold.

During the hunting season quail, dove, squirrel, fox and deer afford great sport to those who enjoy this pastime and the fishing is fine in the Colorado and smaller streams. Campers in great numbers spend weeks fishing, boating, bathing and hunting, enjoying the invigorating atmosphere of the cedar and pine forests.

A large amount of money and work has been expended on the roads of the county and all kinds of vehicles, the farm wagon, buggy, carriage, makes quick and safe transportation anywhere in the county.

Elgin, McDade, Paige, Smithville, all within the limits of this county, are flourishing and prosperous towns with wide-awake citizens and fine commercial advantages.

The town of Bastrop supports liberally its schools and churches. Each denomination has its house of worship. There are two public school buildings, two handsome bank buildings, and some very substantial and imposing mercantile houses. There are two lumber yards, three drug stores, jewelry stores, garages, hotels, boarding houses and restaurants.

It has an attractive court house with grounds made beautiful by trees and fountains and the stately monument erected in memory of the Confederate Veterans.

There is a free public library organized in 1897 by the Ladies' Reading Circle, the Cemetery Association, the Mother's Club, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Harmony Club and various church societies, all the work of the women.

The Water, Light and Ice Company is one of the best of any small town of the state. Two saw mills and one planing mill are kept busy handling the timber produced in this county. The substantial bridge across the Colorado river makes the town accessible to the whole country.

There are many beautiful homes here that add to the attractions of the town. The fertile soil, the healthful climate, the schools, the churches and the excellent character of her citizens all combine to make Bastrop a most desirable place of residence.

BASTROP COUNTY FACTS

Large sweet potatoes were raised near Elgin in 1913. A farmer brought in six whose combined weight was 27 1-2 pounds. This "Triumph Variety" was raised by H. L. P. Smith. This "whitish variety" was obtained in Florida and planted near Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Buescher donated a 100-acre tract for a state park. Another 50 acres were donated by the generous couple in 1931. The park is located between Bastrop and Smithville, and is called the Buescher State Park.

Distinguished Men Made History For Bastrop

(Taken from the Interstate Index December 1920)

Bastrop, in Bastrop County Texas, one of the oldest towns in the state, in a beautiful valley upon the Colorado river, thirty miles southeast of the city of Austin is bounded upon the north and east by hills, south and west by the river and the rich and fertile valley. In its early history, it was expected that the state capitol would be located here and many persons from various sections purchased property within the city, and Stephen F. Austin located his two leagues of land, one immediately north, the other immediately south of and adjoining, the town.

Bastrop is perhaps more celebrated than any other city in Texas, on account of the distinguished men who were born here and who spent a large portion of their lives here, the greatest of these being Lieutenant Governor and Congressman George W. Jones, known as "The Great Commoner," universally recognized as one of, if not the greatest, orators the South ever produced.

Then Honest Joe Sayers, member of Congress, chairman of the great appropriation committee and governor of the state; R. A. John, assistant attorney general of the state, a distinguished lawyer for the Texas Oil Company in the city of Houston, who married Sam Houston's granddaughter, and the father of ten children; then the great financier and distinguished lawyer, Judge R. E. Brooks, treasurer of the Texas Oil Company. Then the Hon. R. L. Batts, eminent jurist, teacher of law in the State University, and writer of law books; the Hon. E. F. Higgins, who served with honor and distinction as judge of the court of civil appeals at El Paso; the Hon. H. M. Garwood, whom all of Bastrop county loved and honored, a brilliant and worthy son, first representative in the lower House, then state senator and county judge, and a member and perhaps the leader of the great legal firm of the South, Baker, Batts, Parker and Garwood, a lawyer of national fame, a brilliant orator, a polished scholarly gentleman of the old school of the south. Would that these noble men could have lived ever in our midst to help battle in the cause of progress of humanity and civilization.

—Robert A. Brooks

TEXAS AND TEXANS

(The Four County Area and its People—1938)

Governor Bob Taylor of Tennessee had a loyal feeling for Texas, partly perhaps because so many Tennesseans became Texas pioneers. He wrote of Texas and Texans:

"Texas is the largest waffle on the griddle of North America. She is sweetened with honey of happiness pouring from the bunghole of prosperity and buttered with pure Democracy. Woe to the prince or potentate who sticks a fork in Texas. Mexico tried it once and bent double with a spell of San Jacinto.

"When I was a barefoot boy I used to sit on the bank of the river and watch the caravans of covered wagons creeping like mammoth snails with shells on their backs southward to the wilderness of Texas. I did not dream then that the ragged, rosy-cheeked children who crowded under the wagon covers were the prophecies of wealth and power and glory of the greatest empire that was ever born on this continent. The caravans landed their precious freight in the wilds of Texas. The blue smoke began to curl upward from the cabins of the pioneers; the burnished plowshares began to slice the broad prairies like a hot knife slicing a continent of Jersey butter; the reaper, like a phantom ship, began to sweep across amber seas of grain; the Texans who had read Milton's 'Paradise Lost' began to talk about 'Paradise Regained'.

"The little ragged, candy-haired children grew up into a race of the fairest women and the bravest men that the sun in heaven ever shone upon. They married the sons and daughters of the heroes who had won the independence of Texas, and there were more cabins on the prairies; and another generation was born whose vigor and strength have given increased power and weight to this mighty commonwealth."

This And That About Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

The proprietors of the famous Iron Front Saloon in Bastrop in 1912 were Bell and Amthor.

The First National Bank reported in 1912 that it had assets over one quarter million dollars.

What were the names of the men who participated in Bastrop's winning baseball team in 1912?

Miss Josie Wilbarger received the praise of her teacher, Miss Lizzie Taylor, of The Excelsior College, for being the artist who painted a beautiful painting in 1874. Miss Taylor was the teacher.

One of the finest two-story buildings was erected on Main Street during 1873. Early and Redding used the first story for their drug store; the upper story was used by the lawyers, Jones and Sayers.

Watterson Community One Of Early Settlements

BY WILLENE CARTER

(Taken from the Historical edition of the Advertiser August 29, 1935)

The Watterson Community is located eleven miles south of Bastrop, twenty miles west of Smithville, and five miles southeast of Red Rock. Settlers came here at a very early date, during the exploration and settlement of Texas. Indians were often found and at times they became hostile. It was a very common thing to see deer, with their fawns, grazing near the branches.

Among the early settlers were Samuel Wolfenbarger and his wife, Mrs. Caroline Wolfenbarger, who came here from Tennessee. By trade he was a wagon maker, but also did farming. He held the first election here.

Charles C. Watterson and his wife, Martha Gray Watterson, came here from Hawkins County, Tennessee, about 1852. He was engaged in stock raising and farming. Their children were Frank, Alice Evada, Henry, Caroline, Charles C. Jr., Joe, C. G. and Mary Watterson, who married H. J. Eskew and now resides in Bastrop. Frank and Charles C. Watterson, Jr., were included among the "Old Trail Drivers".

Johnnie J. Smith and family came here from Missouri. D. C. Hendrix came here from Tennessee. His family consisted of the mother and seven boys, namely Walter, Thomas, Jim, George, John, Ollie and Cornelious Hendrix.

H. B. Lee settled here about 65 years ago. He was reared in Austin. His wife is Alice Evada Watterson, the daughter of Charles C. Watterson.

N. W. Eastland of this community was elected county judge and at early date a representative. He came from Tennessee.

Other early settlers were Wash Corbell and wife, Ann Corbell, and Henry and Tom Lentz. It seems that practically all of the settlers depended upon farming and stock raising for their livelihood.

Henry and Tom Lentz had several skirmishes with Indians. A creek which flows a short distance from the present location of the community center has been called "Lentz Branch" due to this occurrence.

The first school here was called the Lentz Branch school. It was a log cabin, built by private subscription. The first teacher was Jim Ward. The enrollment was between forty and fifty pupils, who paid a tuition of about two dollars each. They studied the "Old Blue Back Speller", the dictionary, reading, arithmetic and some geography. More time, however, was devoted to the dictionary and the speller. Grammer was introduced to the more advanced pupils. Later the log cabin was replaced by a frame wood building.

There was also another school in this district called the Hilbig Park School, which was maintained by the patrons. The first teacher there was T. C. Johns.

The two schools, Hilbig Park and Lentz Branch, were made into one about 1900. About half of the pupils from Hilbig Park were Germans and they have a Catholic School which is about six miles from our present location. The new school was to have a new location. Charles C. Watterson, Sr., donated two acres of land for this purpose. He was very influential in this new enterprise and today this school bears his name, Watterson. The building is in the center of the community. A more beautiful site could not have been chosen for within a few yards of the building is a grove of oak trees. The soil is well drained and is excellent for constructing courts for various school games.

The lumber from the Lentz Branch building was used in making seats for the new school. Joe Watterson drew the plans and was aided by John Hendrix and Theodore Smith in constructing the new building. These three also served as the first trustees. The approximate cost was about \$700, not including labor. The first teacher in this building was J. T. Wilhite of Austin, who later became the head of the Pasteur Institute.

In 1918 the patrons of the community realized that improvements were needed badly. The building was reconstructed. Today it is a fairly well equipped rural school. In 1927 it was consolidated with the Eight Live Oaks School which was often included with the Hills Prairie district, an adjoining community. The community club has worked to make this school standard. This school does not and has never had a tax.

The Watterson post office was established about 1878 with Charles C. Watterson as first postmaster. He served for twenty-eight years, assisted in the later years by his grandson, William Ernest, who was just a lad. After the old grandfather became almost blind, H. B. Lee became postmaster. He served only a few years when this community was placed on a route which came from Red Rock. Today this community has a daily route from Bastrop and Red Rock, also.

Most of this information was given by a resident of this immediate community, Joe C. Watterson, the son of one of the earliest settlers, Charles C. Watterson.

McDade Lynchings Create Excitement In Early Days

(Taken from the Historical Edition of the Advertiser 1935.)

BY JEPHTHA BILLINGSLEY

(Mr. Billingsley was assisted by Mrs. Emma S. Webb of Elgin, who helped him gather, as nearly first-hand as possible, and arrange the material used here. The facts were carefully and finally checked by H. N. (Mann) Bell, former sheriff of Bastrop County.)

There have been so many tales told about the McDade Christmas killings, as for instance "Eleven lynched men seen lying on McDade Depot platform Christmas morning", which appeared in an Austin paper some time ago, that I'd like to have the truth of the matter given, if possible. Of course, those of us who were living in McDade that Christmas of 1883 perhaps don't remember all the details, but we do have a pretty fair recollection of the main points connected with same.

At that time McDade was a thriving little city—it was the loading and unloading point for all the cotton and freight that went to and from Smithville and Bastrop, as the Katy Track through Elgin did not operate until 1886. For many years, too, McDade was the terminus of the Central Railroad while that line was being completed to Austin. Great freight wagons drawn by as many as six or seven yokes of oxen often made the overland trips to adjoining cities, and a stage-coach was run regularly between McDade and surrounding points. As the town was such a commercial center, much money was spent in McDade. Some five or six stores, two drug stores and a blacksmith shop or two, one meat market, two or three saloons, two hotels and several other business houses did a thriving business.

Flour could be bought a dollar a barrel cheaper in McDade than in Bastrop, where the freight charges had to be added. Saloons did a big business and gambling was wide open. Many tricksters and desperados naturally drifted in and made this vicinity their headquarters. The dense post-oak sections and big Yegua bottoms in this neighborhood were further inducement to secretive conduct. Thieving, stealing, and shooting were almost weekly occurrences, and the better element in the community seemed powerless at times to remedy the situation.

The anti-climax to all this developed about a year or so before the so-called Christmas Hanging. It was in this wise: Allen Wynn, a well-known and highly respected citizen living near the Knobbs, had brought some cotton to town and did not return home until that evening. After he had gone about four or five miles out and had crossed the Yegua and had come to the far edge of the dense wooded bottom, he heard two men climbing up into the back end of his wagon. In a moment they had caught hold of his shoulders, pulled him backward from his seat, beat him in the face and taken his money away. Allen recognized the men, and gave the information to a vigilance committee that had been formed.

The men who had attacked and robbed him were occasional visitors at the home of Pat Erhart who lived near the Blue community, so it was agreed that Pat, who was a fiddler and frequently gave dances in his home, should announce that he'd have a dance. The committee were confident that "their men" would be present. The dance took place as planned and while Pat was swinging the bow to the favored tunes, some member of the committee quietly put in his appearance and called out the desired men one at a time. Five of them were spotted, but one of them managed to make his escape unseen and was not present when his final summons came. It was not long before the dancers became conscious that muffled proceedings were going on and gradually some of the more curious men excused themselves and went out doors to investigate, and it wasn't long then before the news was received that four of the community undesirables had been hung on a tree. That naturally put an early stop to the dancing, and much excitement and a feeling of fear took place in practically every one's heart—no one knew just when the confederates of these men would put in their appearance and have their revenge—perhaps even on innocent persons.

These four hangings at the Erhart dance in Blue, near McDade, was the beginning of the McDade Christmas killing, and took place many months before the Christmas hanging in the town of McDade proper. There were a good many folks in town that Christmas Eve doing the last minute trading, drinking, etc. As I was going home that night, a little past sun down, two men invited me to go with them to the Christmas tree at Oak Hill, but I declined, saying I would have my Christmas at home. The men evidently didn't get off as early as they planned because one of these men was among those hanged that night. Next day when I got to town I was told that a "committee" of some 80 men or more had gone to

Oscar Nash's Saloon and had called out the three men they wanted as victims and had trooped out of town with them to about a mile away; they stopped near a branch under a big tree—I believe it was a blackjack—and in a short time the lives of these three marked men were snuffed out.

As seems to happen to all trees on which men are hanged, it wasn't long before the tree died. It was not until this Christmas Eve hanging that the Vigilance Committee finally "got" one of the men who had participated in the previously mentioned attack on Allen Wynn.

McDade, that Christmas morning presented a group of people with set faces. The action of the committee on the previous night began to be broadcast, and those who would dare arrived and came in to get particulars. The bodies were still hanging on the tree where they had been strung—waiting for the Sheriff from Bastrop to come up and handle the matter. About the middle of the morning Deputy Sheriff Sid Jenkins, Will Bell, and H. N. Bell arrived, and a large crowd of us went along to witness the proceedings. Sheriff Bill Jenkins arrived later in the day. I was in the crowd and helped to cut the ropes that the men were hung by—I knew all three of these men pretty well and the sight of them with their twisted faces and the nooses hanging at different angles about the victims' necks was about the most gruesome thing I have ever witnessed—I don't ever want to see anything like that again.

Deputy Sheriff Sid Jenkins and Will Bell returned to McDade and Joe Simms stayed with the bodies. The wagon to carry the dead bodies arrived in about one hour. The wagon belonged to Jack Nash and was driven by Pat Murphy. At the arrival of the wagon, Pat Murphy viewed the bodies, exclaimed, "Bejesus, if Thad had been a foot higher, he would have been a living man yet." The hands of the men hung were tied behind them, and a loop had been slipped around their necks—they were strangled to death.

Before these bodies were brought to town, however, three brothers belonging to the notch cutters gang arrived from their home in the country and went to Milton's store. Tom Bishop sat on a bench outside on the store gallery, and one of the boys stopped to talk to him; the other two went inside where Milton was. The one outside said, "Some folks in this town are accusing some folks of things they didn't do," and kinda stepped up closer to Bishop; the latter whipped out his gun, but the young man grabbed for it, and in the shuffle, the gun went off and struck him in the thigh of the leg. He ran; but in the meantime Milton had ordered the other two brothers out of the store because of the remarks they made, and almost at the same time, the shot was heard outside. The boys rushed out to assist their brother, and Milton grabbed his ever-ready gun behind the door. Immediately, the bullets began to whiz, and shots were fired right and left. Two of the brothers were killed—one had his head shot off—and the third, though wounded, made his escape but was later captured and was taken into custody and was placed in the county jail by Sheriff Jenkins when he returned to Bastrop that day.

A third man was shot and killed that day. His name was Griffin and he was a brother of Mrs. Black, who lived in McDade. When he heard the shots fired that morning, he ran out of Milton's Saloon, and endeavoring to separate the combatants in the melee, he was shot. He was immediately rushed to the home of Mrs. Black. His brother, upon hearing of the young man's death, came to town and brandished a pistol in the air, declaring he was going to kill everybody in sight for the foul murder of his brother, but somehow friends subdued him and no further killings took place at that time.

The shooting of these two gangmen took place right there by Milton's store, and after the smoke cleared the bodies were picked up and placed in one of the stores where they lay for some little time awaiting the arrival of relatives to claim their bodies. The bodies of the three hanged men were also later brought into town, and if I recollect correctly they were brought to the same store where the other two bodies were. I don't recall that they stayed there any length of time; but certainly they and none of the five dead men were "lying on the depot platform". The curious of course—and most of us are, stood around and viewed the bodies and talked over the previous night's and the morning's happenings. Nobody was anxious to have more killings, innocent or otherwise, in the little town when the friends of the deceased would come for their dead one, so the bodies, all five of them, were moved to an old vacant house some distance away from the stores, and there they remained until relatives came to take away the remains. Incidentally, I happened to be present when the wife of one of the dead brothers arrived. They lived quite a piece out in the country, and it was some little time before she came. She knelt down sobbing beside the dead form of her husband and prayed one of the most beautiful prayers I have ever heard.

For some days thereafter the residents of McDade lived in a tension. Parents would not let their

children out of their sight, and some folks deliberately left town, to be gone until matters had cleared up. Louis Bassist, who later moved to Elgin, was one of the latter. He had been in this country only three months, and the gruesome tales and killings he had heard tell of, and the constant sight of quickly whipped out guns and pistols filled him with a feeling that is indescribable. Such wild uncivilized life was so new and strange to him after being accustomed to the strict military conduct of the citizens in the city he lived in while in Germany, that he was at a loss as to what to do about it all. At any rate he took the first train out of McDade that Christmas Day, and went to Elgin where he stayed a week before venturing back to resume his work in the P. Bassist Store.

People who were at all subject to superstitions were sure a curse was on the town and its inhabitants, and that the ghosts of the dead men would be certain to put in their appearance. That night a lady living near the house where the five dead bodies lay, became very sick, and her husband called to Sam Billingsley, who lived nearby and asked him to fetch the doctor—folks had no telephones there at that time. Sam lived until recently in McDade, and was always a man who was willing to aid a friend or neighbor; so with some trepidation he agreed to go. It was necessary to pass the "death house" on that cold bitter night, and Sam's heart involuntarily beat faster. Instinctively, he looked toward the house, and what should he see but a wraith-like form enveloping almost the full height and width of the open doorway.

Needless to say, Sam's footsteps quickened and later when returning with the doctor, he kept as far away from that building as he could. He wasn't sure whether or not he had seen a departed spirit of any of the five desperados or the one innocent victim of the previous night-and-day's melange. Next day however, the ghost visit was explained. A huge dog with broad white chin and breast was observed in town, and he recognized it as the animal belonging to one of the slain brothers. It was this dog who was keeping vigil the night before beside his dead master's body.

The "necking party" quieted things down around McDade for several years and people could carry on business without fear of hold-ups.

Christian Church Building Is Completed Here In 1895

J. Lloyd Hood

The present Christian Church building is said to have been completed in 1895, by John White, contractor. It was dedicated by the Rev. Homer T. Wilson, with the Rev. B. B. Sanders as pastor.

The church was chartered by the State of Texas on the 22nd day of November, 1895, under the name "The Bastrop Christian Church". The three trustees whose signatures are affixed to the charter are A. A. Erhard (grandfather of Mrs. R. H. Brieger), A. C. Erhard (father of Harry C. Erhard), and T. W. Cain, owner and publisher of the Bastrop Advertiser for many years prior to his death. T. W. "Tom" Cain was also the son-in-law of Bro. B. B. Sanders, the first pastor of the Bastrop Christian Church in its present building.

Among the charter members of the present church were Dr. and Mrs. Caton Erhard, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph A. Erhard, Mrs. Delia Grimes Kennedy, Mrs. Jones Trigg (daughter of A. A. Erhard), Mrs. Maud M. Fowler (mother of J. P. Fowler and Mrs. M. A. Green), Mrs. Lula Hood (mother of Lloyd Hood and Mrs. F. W. Denison), Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Morris (parents of Mrs. Wallace Craft).

A small rock church is said to have occupied the site of the Christian Church for some time before the present edifice was erected. The bell in the belfrey of the church today was used in the original church, and it is said to have been acquired from a steamboat that plied the Colorado River.

Unfortunately, no records of the original church are available, and it is impossible to trace the history of the church before the erection of the present building and the granting of the charter.

In its early days, the Christian Church of Bastrop was exceeded in numbers only by the Methodist Church. At present, the congregation is very small, and ranks fifth or sixth numerically among the churches of Bastrop. The Rev. M. B. Harris of Austin filled the pulpit on the second and fourth Sunday mornings for several years, and Arthur E. Grimes, a teacher in the Bastrop Public Schools, who is an ordained minister of the Christian Church, has supplied on the first and third Sunday mornings.

The Rev. Mr. Grimes is at present serving as full time pastor.

According to Mr. Hood, the Christian Church was in existence prior to 1890, as his grandfather's funeral was held there in January, 1889. His grandfather was the late C. B. Maynard. The present C. B. Maynard is also his grandson, and his namesake.

Historical Pageant Given At Bastrop Celebration

(Taken from Bastrop Advertiser July 9, 1931)

A crowd of some four to five thousand people gathered at the Fair Park on the evening of June 24 to view, as a climax to an all-day celebration of Bastrop's 100th birthday, a pageant showing the history of Bastrop County.

Slides giving the historical data in its chronological order were flashed on a big screen, while the events were pantomimed on a stage beneath the screen.

The events as they were presented became a condensed history, and they are given here in their original wording.

PAGEANT

History of Bastrop County, 1830, 1931.

Compiled and arranged by W. S. Millington, Mrs. Girtha Vest and Mrs. Amy Smith Standifer.

Assisted by Mrs. W. W. Litton, chairman Home Demonstration council; Mrs. S. J. C. Higgins, chairman coronation; Mrs. T. R. Whitworth, Smithville; Mrs. A. Sellstrom, Elgin; Mrs. Olga Schultz, Paige; Mr. S. J. C. Higgins, chairman of arrangements and barbecue, and many others.

We will attempt to depict for you by this pageant the development of Bastrop County.

Appearing in the pageant are men, women, boys and girls of Bastrop County who have graciously consented to assist.

Bastrop, the cradle of Texas Independence, is nestled by the banks of the historic Colorado.

In the early days the Indians roamed the country; among them were a tribe called the Tejas from whom the state derives its name.

The Yo Juan, Tonkaway and Comanche Indians inhabited the territory of Central Texas between the Colorado River and Trinity River. (Represented by Bastrop Boys.)

The first settlement on the banks of the Colorado was called Mina by the Spanish in honor of Xavier Mina, one of their generals.

Bull fighting was one of the favorite sports of the Spanish, presented by Paige.

Spanish dance (Smithville)

The town of Bastrop was surveyed and laid out by Stephen F. Austin in 1830. Named Bastrop in honor of his friend, Baron de Bastrop.

Stephen F. Austin and Baron de Bastrop transacting business, represented by Bastrop men.

Baron de Bastrop assisted by Moses Austin in his colonization plans and his son, Stephen F. Austin, in carrying this out.

Settling Bastrop, Elizabeth Standifer, one of Austin's first 300 came in 1820. Her husband, John Litton, settled near Hog Eye, now Elgin, in 1830. Here their descendants are shown laying claim to the first homestead in Bastrop County.

Ox teams were used (this team is owned and driven by Green Taylor of Oak Hill.)

The first white woman to cross the Colorado River was Mrs. Josiah Wilbarger, who traveled from Matagorda on horseback with her son, John Wilbarger, in her lap (represented by Mrs. Sam J. Smith of Austin.)

Hardy pioneers faced many dangers and hardships. Among Bastrop pioneers were Wells, Leman, Barker, Wilbarger, Burleson, Craft, Erhard, Moncure and others.

Prairie Schooner driven by G. B. Miller, the only original settler now in Hemphill's Prairie, whose grandfather, Benj. Martin, came here in 1838.

Josiah Wilbarger was scalped by the Indians in 1838 and left for dead, but recovered and lived for about eleven years.

Santa Anna's Army came through Bastrop in 1836, following Sam Houston's retreat known in history as the "Runaway Scrape".

The "Runaway Scrape" started in Bastrop, led by John McGehee, who was convalescing from wounds received in battle.

The Battle of San Jacinto followed soon, on April 21, 1836, when Texas Independence was won. Peace treaty between Houston and Santa Anna depicted here by Young's Prairie Community.

In 1835 the first church, Methodist, was organized with ten white and one colored members. The pastor was Rev. Gilleland and charter members were Messrs. and Mesdames Anderson, Boyes, Delaplane, Brisbane, Mrs. Thos. Christian, Mrs. Sarah McGehee and Cely Craft, a Negro slave. (Represented by Elgin.)

Heroes: Stephen F. Austin, Baron de Bastrop, Sam Houston, David Crockett, A Bastrop pioneer, (represented by Bastrop men.)

Texas heroes, (sung by Elgin Glee Club.)

The old Tumlinson Rangers, organized in 1836, were made up of citizens of Bastrop county, among them being Mr. W. R. Redding and John Ransome. This was the beginning of the rangers in Texas. (Representatives from Elgin.)

All the elite invited to witness the marriage of Samuel Craft's daughter, Harriet, to Jesse Holderman, July 4, 1838. Bride and groom represented here by great grandchildren, Charlie Bess Wilkes and Clyde Owens of Bastrop.

Marriage by Bond. State of Coahuila, Department of Texas, July the 4th 1888. "Know all by

these presents, that I, Jesse Holderman, of the said state and department do promise and agree to take Harriet Craft to be my true and lawful wife, to live together after the holy ordinances of God, to love, honor, keep her in sickness and in health forsaking all others, and cleave unto her alone so long as we both shall live."

"I, Harriet Craft, of the above state and department, do promise and agree to take the said Jesse Holderman to be my lawful husband, to live together after the Holy ordinances of God, to love, honor and obey, keep him in sickness and in health, forsaking all others, cleave unto him so long as we both shall live."

JESSE HOLDERMAN,
HARRIET CRAFT

Signed in the presence of-----

The dance was a favorite activity. They shuffled, double shuffled, wired and cut the pigeon wing. The square dance was very popular.

Ten years of independence followed—years of struggle and hardships before Texas was admitted as a State. Then came the Civil War with its painful partings and sad goodbyes.

Days of Civil War. Jennie Nolan Luckett helped to make the flag carried by soldiers. (Representatives from Cedar Creek.)

Alex Nolan, son of Stephen A. Nolan, owner of first hotel in Bastrop, grandfather of Mrs. W. W. Litton of Cedar Creek and his sweetheart parting. (Duet by Miss Una Craft and Mrs. H. L. Perkins.)

The fertile soil, wonderful climate and unconquerable spirit of the citizens of Bastrop county rapidly repaired the losses of the Civil War and brought a period of prosperity.

I think when the great Creator made this world of ours, he must have set apart an especially fair and beautiful spot for Texas, the land of broad prairies and lofty hills, the land of bright rivers whose waters enrich the valleys and sing their spring song of greetings to the thousands of blue bonnets that scatter loveliness from the mountains.

Dance of the flowers. The prairies, hills, valleys of Bastrop County produce an abundance of gorgeous flowers. (Representatives from Elgin.)

Outstanding developments. The first trail across Texas was the old San Antonio Trail. It was the highway for trade between the United States and Mexico. (Freight wagon driven by Mr. John Young of Upton.)

Trail Drivers. A familiar scene in the early history of Bastrop was the annual round-up and driving the herds to Kansas, to Cheyenne and the Big Horn River in Wyoming. Six months time was often required.

Cowboy Ballads by Carl T. Sprague known as the singing cowboy. Victor recording artist.

Foreign Immigrants settled in Kovar, Kyleburg, String Prairie, Rosanky and Sacred Heart.

Bastrop early became a leading educational center. Allen Military Academy, Hancock School, Excelsior College, and The Bastrop Normal, were private schools of influence. The first session of the public schools was held in 1892.

Now we come to the phenomenal growth and development. Pine timbers used to build the famous Alamo were hewn from our forests. The trip, cutting, sawing, loading and return trip, required three months. Save the forests.

Col. J. C. Higgins in 1840 was engaged to run a saw mill east of town. His wife fired the engine for him. Many of the old homes now standing were built of lumber from his mill. (Represented by their great-grandchildren, William Higgins Jr., and Sammie Edith Higgins.)

Mail was carried on horse-back by relays. The horse was saddled and ready for the Mail Carrier to change without losing time.

The Bastrop Advertiser, the oldest weekly newspaper in Texas, was first published March 1, 1853. All records to 1858 lost through fire.

A steam boat made a trip up the Colorado river to Austin in 1853. Railroad established in 1886. A bridge across the Colorado in 1890 was a toll bridge at first.

A concrete and steel bridge was completed in 1924.

Lignite coal discovered in 1875 in large deposits, is one of our natural resources.

Pottery of superior quality is manufactured from our pottery clays.

Brick of the best grades is manufactured at Butler and Prewitt.

Cotton and corn have been the principal crops in Bastrop county, though the climate and soil conditions are well adapted to any other crops.

King Cotton, Charles Lee of Upton, best all round 4-H Club boy for 1930.

Horn of Plenty, showing that many crops and animal products can be produced in Bastrop county.

Winona Schultz, Queen of Conservation and Diversification.

Prince Corn, Lorenz Fuchs. Escorting the Queen of Conservation.

Alfalfa, one of our leading feed crops has produced approximately four tons of hay per acre in Bastrop County this year. Grain Sorghum is one of our main feed crops. Pecans pay big profits in Bastrop County. Improve them.

Turkey raising has attained large proportions in Bastrop County.

Carrots, spinach, beans, tomatoes, and peas help to fill the horn of plenty.

Diversification.

We realize there are many pioneer families in the county whose part in the history of the county has not been mentioned here, but it was impossible to get in touch with all of them.

KING G. P. HERNDON, JR., CROWNS QUEEN AT 8 P. M.

At 8 o'clock the coronation of Queen Mary Nell Jones took place on a specially arranged and brilliantly lighted stage in front of the grandstand. Pine boughs formed a background and daisies and fern decorated the stage in a pleasing manner, and made a garden-like setting for the beautiful queen and her court, all of whom were gowned in handsome costumes appropriate to the occasion. Her Majesty's attendants and their escorts in the order of their entrance, were as follows:

Rose of the house of Watterson, Leslie of the house of Brite, Duchess and Duke of Watterson.

Alleen of the house of Spence, Coke of the house of Vest, Duchess and Duke of Alum Creek.

Emma of the house of Ott, Fred of the house of Fiebrich, Duchess and Duke of String Prairie.

Mattie of the house of Claiborne, Joe of the house of Robbins, Duchess and Duke of Craft's Prairie.

Emma of the house of Young, Harold of the house of Brown, Duchess and Duke of Upton.

Edith of the house of Miller, Bruce of the house of Barton, Duchess and Duke of McDuff.

Edith of the house of Smith, Leslie of the house of Simmons, Duchess and Duke of Cedar Creek.

Helen of the house of Black, Shaw of the house of Breeding, Duchess and Duke of Red Rock.

Mildred of the house of Clopton, Curtis of the house of Fitzpatrick, Duchess and Duke of McDade.

Ellen of the house of Orts, Henry of the house of Lehman, Duchess and Duke of Paige.

Ennis of the house of Fisher, Maid to the Duchess of Elgin.

Lucy Lee of the house of Carter, Henry of the house of Bell, Duchess and Duke of Elgin.

Elizabeth of the house of Hill, Maid to the duchess of Smithville.

Gail of the house of Harkness, Maid to the duchess of Smithville.

Florine of the house of Rosanky, Albert of the house of Henry, Duchess and Duke of Smithville.

Martha of the house of Lee, Robert of the house of Jenkins, Duchess and Duke of Bastrop.

Buelah Grace of the house of Jenkins, Alton of the house of Fowler, Princess and Prince of Eastrop.

Pages to the king: John Kennedy, Kleber Trigg, Jr., Alex Waugh, Jr., Hartford Jenkins, Jr.

Crown Bearer, Joe Young, Jr.

His Majesty, Perkins of the house of Herndon.

Flower girls, Marguerite Haynie, Dorothy Nell Denison, Patsy Earl Morris and Betty Jean Craft.

Her Majesty, Mary Nell of the house of Jones.

Train bearers, Margaret Powell and Evelyn Williams.

The members of the royal party were selected with special attention given their lineage and ancestors in the county.

Various songs and choruses were presented before the queen and her royal court by young people in appropriate costumes. The Indians arrived and they were war like and very real looking with their brown stained bodies, painted faces and feather head dress. To a tom tom accompaniment a dozen Indian maids danced a tribal snake dance which was good. The old Pioneers of Bastrop county arrived in covered wagons and on horseback. A big wedding of a century ago was depicted, the characters all dressed in costumes of those days.

TEXAS UNDER SIX FLAGS

(Taken from the Four County Area and its People—1938)

Six known flags have waved over Texas territory during the several periods when she was a province of France, of Spain, of the Republic of Mexico, the Republic of Texas, one of the Confederate States of America and of the United States, just prior to and following the Confederacy. Each of these governments had its flag which floated over Texas when that government dominated the land.

There may have been other flags. What flag did General Long raise when he organized the first Republic of Texas at Nacogdoches? What flag was raised during the Fredonia outburst? What flag did the Texans have flying over the Alamo when it was razed by the Mexicans and when they defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto? Perhaps no flag floated over the Alamo or over the Texans at San Jacinto, battle cries being used instead, "For Texas and Freedom" at the Alamo; "Remember Goliad, Remember the Alamo", shouted at San Jacinto.

UDC Active Organization In Bastrop Since 1906

Advertiser, August 29, 1935)

By Eva H. L. Karling

The United Daughters of the Confederacy is a patriotic organization!

The Constitution says its objects are Memorial, Benevolent, Educational, Historical and Social.

Section 1. To honor the memory of those who fell in the service of the Confederate States: To protect, preserve, and mark places made historic by Confederate valor.

Section 2. To collect and preserve the material for a truthful history of the War Between the States, and to see that the same is taught in our schools. Also to record the part taken by Southern Women in patient endurance of hardships, and patriotic devotion during the struggle, as in untiring efforts after the war during Reconstruction days in the South.

Section 3. To fulfill the sacred duty of benevolence toward the survivors and those dependent upon them.

Section 4. To assist the descendants of worthy confederates in securing proper education by providing scholarships for them.

Section 5. To bring into the organization all women eligible to membership and to cherish the ties of friendship that bind us in one great organization.

If it had not been for the United Daughters of the Confederacy there would have been no Homes for Confederates. The Texas Woman's Confederate home was built and paid for by the Daughters and presented to the State as a home for Confederate wives and widows—and there hundreds upon hundreds of old ladies spent their last days in peace and comfort, being tenderly cared for at the end.

The Men's Confederate Home, where thousands of old soldiers lived in comfort for years, was sponsored and assisted by the Daughters and they provided comforts and gifts at Christmas for these old Confederate soldiers.

The Confederate Museum at Austin is preserving for posterity many valuable relics and records. Each State has its museum—At Richmond, Virginia the "White House of the Confederacy" has been preserved and restored, and it contains a library of many rare volumes. There the United States government has gone for literary information. Arlington, General Lee's home and many other historic places have been restored and cared for by the U.D.C.

There would have been no Confederacy pensions for veterans and widows if it had not been for the untiring efforts of these organizations.

The sons of Confederate veterans have assisted in many ways—and at one time the Joseph D. Sayers Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, had a flourishing organization in this county.

The Texas Division Loan Fund provides many loans for students who are descendants of confederates. The general organization gives valuable scholarships.

The U.D.C. has in its membership some of the brightest, strongest and noblest women of the State and Nation.

Large chapters, such as the Albert Sidney Johnson Chapter at Austin, give prizes and medals to high school and grade pupils for essays on patriotic subjects. The Jefferson Davis Highway is so named through the efforts of the U.D.C. and many markers have been placed along its beautiful trail which leads from San Augustine, Florida, to the Pacific Coast.

The Texas Division was organized at Dallas forty years ago by Mrs. J. Muse of Dallas. The Bastrop T. C. Cain Chapter was organized in 1906 with forty charter members; Mrs. S. J. Orgain, Mrs. B. D. Orgain, Mrs. Emma Holmes Jenkins, Mrs. A. T. Morris, Mrs. M. J. Gill, Mrs. Blanch Duval Myers and others were among its officers and organizers. The present membership (1935) is only ten active and two honorary members. Officers were Mrs. W. B. Ransome, president; Mrs. Owen Chalmers, first vice president; Mrs. J. E. Haines, second vice president; Mrs. A. M. Oldfield, treasurer; Mrs. Gem Simmons, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. J. Gill, registrar and recorder of Crosses; Mrs. Eva H. L. Karling, historian.

We, as individual chapter members remember our local veterans, widows, and older Daughters with gifts and cards on birthdays and at Christmas. In honoring such men as Jefferson Davis, Generals Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and J. E. B. Stuart, we have brought before our young people the highest ideals and instilled in them reverence for the greatness of Christian characters in which through all the years no flaw or reproach have been found.

Wesleyan Service Guild Organized In 1945

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the First Methodist Church met for the first time in Bastrop on April 17, 1945, at the church. Mrs. A. N. Edwards was made the first president of the Guild. Other officers were Anna Pearl Alexander, first vice president; Beulah Newell, second vice president, Helen Whetsell, recording secretary; Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, treasurer.

Charter members included Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, Helen Whetsell, Mrs. Homer Murchison, Jr., Mrs. Joe Pfeiffer, Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, Mrs. Oren Eskew, Mrs. Wallace Hefner, Mrs. A. N. Edwards, Mrs. E. H. Smith, Mrs. Fred Wright, Elva Clyde Lock, Jessie Browning, Mrs. C. B. Maynard and Mrs. Ed Hill.

Officers in 1946 were Anna Pearl Alexander, president; Mrs. E. H. Smith, vice president; Mrs. Homer Murchison, Jr., recording secretary; Mrs. Wallace Hefner, corresponding secretary; Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, treasurer.

1947 officers were Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, president; Esther Anderson, vice president; Mrs. E. H. Smith, recording secretary; Mrs. Willie Belle Kennedy, corresponding secretary; Ione Hoffman, treasurer.

1948 officers included Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, president; Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, vice president; Mrs. Bryan Sanders, recording secretary; Mrs. G. A. Schaefer, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. N. Edwards, treasurer.

1949 officers were Mrs. Bryan Sanders, president; Mrs. E. F. Percy, first vice president; Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, second vice president; Mrs. Monroe Sanders, recording secretary; Mrs. A. N. Edwards, promotion secretary; Mrs. G. A. Schaefer, treasurer.

Mrs. Bryan Sanders was president again in 1950 and Mrs. E. F. Percy was again vice president. Other officers were Mrs. Alma Schaefer, recording secretary; Mrs. Addie Mae Powell, promotion secretary; and Miss Stella Spooner, treasurer.

In 1951, officers were Pearl Jerrell, president; Mrs. Willie Belle Kennedy, vice president; Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, second vice president; Hilda Marie Sapp, recording secretary; Mrs. E. H. Smith, promotion secretary; Mrs. M. A. Carpenter, treasurer.

In 1952, Pearl Jerrell served as president until her resignation in October. Mrs. E. F. Percy was then elected president. Other officers serving from June 1952, to June 1953, were Mrs. Willie Belle Kennedy, vice president; Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, second vice president; Hilda Sapp, recording secretary; Mrs. Louise Orgain, promotion secretary; and Mary Peterson, treasurer.

Officers in 1953-54 were Mrs. Alma Schaefer, president; Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, vice president; Mrs. Monroe Sanders, recording secretary; Mrs. Jess Walker, promotion secretary; and Mrs. Homer Murchison, Jr., treasurer.

1954-55, officers were Mrs. A. N. Edwards, president; Mrs. Jess Walker, vice president; Mrs. E. F. Percy, recording secretary; Mrs. G. A. Schaefer, treasurer; Mrs. Addie Mae Powell, promotion secretary.

Present members include Mrs. A. N. Edwards, Mrs. Monroe Sanders, Mrs. M. A. Carpenter, Mrs. E. S. Orgain, Mrs. E. F. Percy, Mrs. Bryan Sanders, Mrs. Wallace Hefner, Mrs. Jess Walker, Mrs. Chas. Miller, Mrs. E. C. Fournier, Mrs. R. L. Bohannon, Mrs. E. H. Smith, Mrs. Steve McFall, Miss Stella Spooner, Mrs. R. E. Standifer, Miss Marie Neff, Mrs. Clarence McFall, Mrs. G. A. Schaefer, Mrs. LeRoy Chalmers, Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, Mrs. Homer Murchison, Miss Mary Peterson, Mrs. Willie Belle Kennedy, Mrs. Jack Moncure, Miss Hilda Sapp, Mrs. Alma Schaefer, Mrs. Addie Mae Powell, Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, Mrs. W. J. Rogers, Mrs. Lester Berry, Mrs. Willie B. Compton.

The People's Paper Published By Dyer Moore

"THE PEOPLE'S PAPER" a newspaper owned and edited by Judge Dyer Moore in about 1895, was established when the Political People's Party was established, carrying news of the party, and also local news and advertising. The paper was abandoned in several years, after the People's Party was no longer in existence.

It is supposed that the paper was published in the Advertiser office. The copy that we are able to secure was dated Thursday, June 11, 1896.

A paragraph from the paper reads thus: One of the most discouraging items shown by the recent official census is the rapid increase in the amount of child labor in the United States. Hundreds of children who are barely old enough to leave the nursery, and who are scarcely able to distinguish between right and wrong, are brought face to face with the hard world, and compelled to grapple with men in the fierce competition of life.

Mr. Moore was the father of Mrs. O. P. Jones and Elwood Moore.

First Drum And Bugle Corps And Band Organized

Bastrop's first Drum and Bugle Corps and Band was organized on June 15, 1937, when the members of the pep squad of the Bastrop High School met and organized. The Drum and Bugle Corps and Band was under the direction of Jack Orr.

Those in the Corps were Drum Major, Mary Pearl Erhard; Assistant Drum Major, Virginia Ray Hubbard; Bugles, Frances Williams, Elsie Peterson, Wilma Perkins, Mary Ellen Peterson, Effie Davis, Lucille Ash, Margaret Powell, Dorothy Dell Hoffman, Joyce Darling, Mary Evelyn Kippenbrock, Dorothy Mae Schaefer, Loyce Eskew; Drill Sergeant, Ethel Cartwright; Scotch Bass Drums, Mildred Stagner, Ann Morris; Street Drums, Dorothy Bell, Nina Mae Kunschick, Mary Evelyn Bryson, Barbara Lee Thompson, Shirley Tarver, Marjorie Neal Eskew, Evelyn Williams, Mary Sue Murchison, Leola Edwards, Waldrene Werth; and others, Jeanne Green, Doris Louise Veselka, Gladys Baca, Virginia Dodson and Alice Stagner.

Other band directors serving after Mr. Orr were Joseph Hall, 1938-1939; A. C. Hart, 1939-1940, and Mrs. Katherine Heiser, 1940-1941.

The Bastrop Board of Education employed Victor M. Williams as band director in May 1950. The band under Mr. Williams' direction, was the first one since before World War II, when they had to disband as it was impossible to secure a director. An active Drum and Bugle Corps was maintained during this time under the leadership of various high school teachers.

James O. Pierce served as director for 1952-1953, when Wendell Ragsdale assumed the directorship for the next two years. George Rhoades has been elected for 1955-1956.

The present Bastrop High School Band is composed of 37 members.

Reading Circle Organized For Self-Improvement

By Mrs. W. E. Maynard

The Ladies Reading Circle originated in 1897 because three ladies of the town of Bastrop felt the need of self-improvement. The three ladies were Mrs. B. D. Orgain, Mrs. S. J. Orgain and Mrs. E. H. Jenkins. They met once a week and read and discussed articles in magazines, and so called themselves the Magazine Club.

The seed these three ladies planted grew, and they were joined by other ladies, and began to call themselves the "Ladies Reading Circle". They drew up a constitution and elected officers.

The first president was Mrs. B. D. Orgain, who kept that office until 1901, when Mrs. W. A. McCord took over the presidency.

Serving with Mrs. McCord as officers were Miss Belle Jones, first vice president; Mrs. Paul D. (Blanche Garwood) Page, second vice president; Miss Dru Orgain, recording secretary; Mrs. Maggie Green, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W. E. (Mollie Clements) Maynard, treasurer; Mrs. B. D. Orgain, critic; Mrs. J. B. Price, history leader; Mrs. O. P. Jones, directress of music.

Under Mrs. McCord's supervision, the Reading Circle began to take on definite goals. A year book was set up and printed. The violet was chosen as the club flower, purple and white were made the club colors, and the motto "Carpe Diem" was chosen.

The following special committees were set up to carry on the work of the club: library—Mrs. S. J. Orgain, chairman; Mrs. W. E. Maynard, Miss Parks; music—Mrs. O. P. Jones, chairman; Miss Lula Reynolds, Miss Dru Orgain; art—Mrs. J. B. Price, chairman; Miss Belle Jones, Mrs. Maggie Green; village improvement—Mrs. Paul D. Page, chairman; Mrs. E. H. Jenkins, Mrs. H. N. Bell, Sr.; programme—Mrs. E. H. Jenkins, chairman; Miss Belle Jones, Mrs. Paul D. Page.

A subject for roll call was assigned to each member as follows:

The Educational World, Mrs. A. F. Bean; All Around the World, Mrs. H. N. Bell; Books, Mrs. Maggie Green; Astronomy, Miss Mary O. Higgins; Psychology, Mrs. E. H. Jenkins; Mythology, Mrs. O. P. Jones; Electricity, Miss Belle Jones; Music, Mrs. W. E. Maynard; Society, Mrs. W. A. McCord; Hygiene, Mrs. B. D. Orgain; Inventions, Mrs. S. J. Orgain; Religion, Miss Dru Orgain; Household Economics, Mrs. Paul D. Page; Politics, Miss Pearl Parks; Drama, Mrs. J. B. Price; Clubdom, Mrs. D. S. Price; Club Jester, Miss Lula Reynolds; Art and Artists, Mrs. K. M. Trigg, Sr.

The club met once each week and these were some of the topics studied and discussed: The Signs of the Times, Miss Pearl Parks; Recent Changes in the Political World, Miss Lula Reynolds; Needs of the Eastrop Public Library, Mrs. D. S. Price; Public Parks, a Necessity, Mrs. O. P. Jones; The Ancient Art of Tapestry, Mrs. H. N. Bell; The Beginning of French Literature, Mrs. S. J. Orgain; Which Has the Wider Field, Poet or Novelist, Miss Lula Reynolds.

The club records show that the Reading Circle joined the five Federated Clubs of the State of

Texas in 1900, and has been a constant member since that date. Mrs. W. A. McCord and Mrs. E. H. Jenkins each served as delegates in 1900 and 1901.

According to a brief history of the club written by Mrs. B. D. Orgain, the first two civic projects were that of establishing a public library and the building of a fence around the public school and landscaping the grounds there enclosed.

The library became a reality in 1898, and was kept open on certain days of the week by a librarian paid by the club. The library was lost in 1943 when the Bastrop City Council asked the club to move it from the City Hall.

In the 1904-1905 year book is found the first constitution drawn up by the club. It operated under this constitution until 1939-1940, when it was revised. One of changes made at that time was in Article II, Object: The object of this club shall be to study the masterpieces of literature and to engage in such club activities as may be suggested by local needs and conditions, and in harmony with the purposes and ideals of the General and State Federations of Womens Clubs.

Mrs. W. A. McCord again became president of the club in 1918, and Mrs. E. C. Erhard, niece of Mrs. McCord, has preserved this acceptance speech, made when she assumed her duties of office at this time:

"Ladies of the Reading Circle:

"The wise bard of Avon (whom we have studied most) tells us: 'Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them', and I am sure you will all recall this last is the reason why I am again your president. While it is with keen appreciation of the honor, yet I humbly remember 'with privilege comes responsibility'.

"We meet after a rest of months in which mental and physical strength has been renewed, thought and creed broadened, and experiences sharpened by rubbing against a rushing work-a-day world, sympathies extended because of the calls of our present time.

"In 1901 when you elected me your president, how different our work. Then we had the Library, the Harmony Club, the Village Improvement, and other societies as our 'daughters', and our varied committees as of art, schools, parks, health, etc., as our assistants, and on each I depended for co-operation and support. Today it seems all have changed, and it is for work and action we are united together in our Circle.

"Standing as we are today, at the entrance of fresh fields of work, as well as inspiration, it is gratifying to look back on the fruitful ways we have traversed. Our united efforts have been permanent fruit (which the older members will recall with pride). We have seen woman's capabilities broadened in many ways, while the present is crowned with evidences of growth and advancement. So many avenues of usefulness are opened to us that we grow dizzy in selection; we have advanced beyond our Article II, which says, 'shall be for mutual improvement', but ours now is the needs of the hour. We have wisely chosen to improve not only ourselves and each other, but to render important service in the uplifting and betterment of humanity, and to 'keep the home fires burning 'til the boys come home'. We are banded together for higher self-development and the attainment of greater intellectual progress, or such as our local conditions require. Leisure is given, which no woman should be content to fill entirely with social duties or selfish pleasures. We come together in loving comradeship to 'take from each as she has power, to give to each as she has need'. Never has life been so well worth living as today! 'The world needs strength and courage and wisdom to help and feed, when we as women bring these to man, we shall help the world indeed'.

"These are the times for true economy; it should teach us to live within our means, and relegate clothes to their proper place (even if that be Belgium) and not make them the 'be all and end all' of women's existence; to hold fast to the essentials and to loosen our fevered grasp upon a thousand things that are not worth while. As wives, we should look well to the ways of our household; let us not pamper our husbands' stomachs, but 'Hooverize' until we know true economy; likewise save in time, instead of as formerly, spending hours on papers 'for the protection of the birds'. Let us hourly consider the protection and moral influence around our boys over there.

"Other old stumbling blocks to avoid are: ambition and selfishness, individual aims, rather seek general good. Above all, avoid politics (though it, too, may be thrust upon us). Let us remember women's strength is most potent when robed in gentleness and accept Pres. Wilson's recent statement: 'Politics is adjourned'. If we see former misdirected energy, let us now arise and place them on holier, healthier pleasures or duties; our object being to bring our endeavors together in a spirit of fraternal helpfulness and encouragement, and as the violet (our flower) freely diffuses its fragrance, may we learn its modest lesson.

"In our table-talks, those discussions that bring about that delightful feeling of comradeship which always shows our best side to advantage, let Helpfulness be the basic principle of our Circle

'that each from the other may something gain; that each to the other may something give.'

"Above all, let us remember: 'Though we speak with the tongues of Angels and have not charity, it profiteth nothing'.

"Then let us resolve to pour more energy into our work and be thoroughly alive, and next year, if we respond no longer to roll call, may our 'Gleanings' be as the liberality of Boaz concerning Ruth (Ruth 2:14-15).

"I can but quote you our motto 'Carpe Diem' and entreat you to 'Act, act in the living present'.

"Be strong!

We are not here to dream, to drift,
We have hard work to do, and hands to lift,
Shun not the struggle; face it. 'Tis God's gift.'

The Ladies Reading Circle has been a force in Bastrop throughout its 56 years of existence and still continues to be. Some of the Club's recent accomplishments include the following:

In 1949, the civic committee, composed of Mrs. E. C. Erhard, Mrs. J. G. Bryson and Mrs. W. E. Maynard, carved out a park, with the permission of the Bastrop City Council, on land owned by the city where the Old Spanish Trail crossed the Colorado. This was named the Old Ferry Park, and the Texas Legislature, on May 16, 1951, designated it as a Historical Shrine.

In 1951, the Circle, under the chairmanship of Mrs. W. E. Maynard, entered the "Build Freedom With Youth" contest, sponsored by the National Federation of Women's Clubs. An Achievement Award was won by the Club in this contest.

The Bastrop Historical Society was organized in 1952, under the sponsorship of the Reading Circle, with Mrs. P. C. Maynard as chairman. In May of that year, the two clubs combined to purchase the Miller property on the Colorado River adjacent to Old Ferry Park. The house has been rehabilitated and remodeled and designated as the Bastrop Museum. The rich history of Bastrop will be preserved here for posterity.

As the most of the charter members of the Reading Circle have answered the call of the Grim Reaper, other members have taken their places and the cultural and civic work of the club has been carried on.

Events Reported in 1908

(The following are paragraphs of interest taken from the Advertiser issues of 1908.)

JULY 25, 1908

On last Sunday afternoon, while returning from a family picnic on Cedar Creek, several members of Mr. Pete Griesenbeck's family were injured by the team attached to the carriage running away. As the party was coming down a hill, one side of the tongue came loose, frightening the team and causing them to run away. The carriage was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Griesenbeck and three children, and Mr. Oscar Griesenbeck. When the tongue broke, the lines were pulled from the hands of Jack, the little son of Mr. Griesenbeck. It was soon seen that there was no chance to stop the running horses, and Mr. and Mrs. Griesenbeck each placed one of the children on the ground, and the others jumped. Mrs. Griesenbeck was the only one seriously injured. She had a sprained ankle, dislocated knee, her head and back considerably bruised. Mr. Griesenbeck had a rib broken and numerous bruises about the hands, while Oscar Griesenbeck was cut in several places on the arm. The oldest little girl had a cut over the eye. Jack and the baby were unhurt.

JANUARY 25, 1908

The Ladies of Bastrop entertained their gentlemen friends with a Leap Year Ball at the Opera House, Friday night last. Quite a large number were in attendance, an elegant supper served, and a most delightful evening had by all. Music furnished by the Mexican Orchestra, and the merry dance was continued until the early hours of the morning.

During the week ending February 28, 1879, the reliable hen had certainly been doing her duty in Bastrop and vicinity, as eggs were being marketed at from five to seven cents a dozen.

FEBRUARY 28, 1879

A reward of \$100.00 was offered by R. S. Green for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who cut his ferry rope on the Sunday night before.

JUNE 1908

In June 1879 T. A. Hasler had an ice ad giving prices for ice as follows: 100 pounds \$2.25; 50 pounds, \$1.25; 10 pounds, 30 cents; 5 pounds or less 5 cents per pound. Mr. Hasler has an ice ad in this issue and after an elapse of twenty nine years, is selling ice at 50 cents per hundred pounds delivered to your door.

The Advertiser's young friend, Thompson Morris Rector, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Rector, of Bastrop, graduated at Yale Law School, at New Haven, Connecticut, last week. The young gentleman finished at Yale in one year.

Counties Embracing Area Once Large As States

(Taken from the Four-County Area and Its People 1938)

In the year 1828 a settlement on the Colorado river was given the name of Mina in honor of General Xavier Mina. Probably a number of citizens of Bastrop have often wondered why their town was once named Mina.

Frank Brown tells us in his annals of Travis County:

"Xavier Mina was a liberty-loving patriot of Spain, and when he met with reverses, he escaped to France. Later, he went to England, where he became interested in the cause of Mexican independence from Spain.

"Assisted by some wealthy Englishmen, he organized an expedition and went to New Orleans, where he received further assistance.

"Entering Mexico, he defeated several armies, but being deserted by his followers, he was overwhelmed and taken to the City of Mexico, where he was executed.

"Consequently, a district and municipality were named for him."

In 1830 the town of Bastrop was laid out near the Mina settlement by Stephen F. Austin, and named Bastrop in honor of Baron de Bastrop, the friend of his father, Moses Austin, and later land commissioner assisting Austin in colonizing Texas. But the name of Mina continued for the municipality until the County of Bastrop was created by the first congress of the Republic of Texas in 1836.

Bastrop County when organized in 1837 was extensive, having a length of approximately 300 miles southeast and northwest and a width in places of more than 100 miles. According to Z. T. Fulmore in his "History and Geography of Texas," Bastrop County included all and portions of 19 present counties in Texas, but it lost much of its area in 1840 when Travis County was created and took 15 of these counties into its organization, only to lose all except its present area within three years. Bastrop County then included, in addition to its present area, a portion of Lee County which it lost in 1874 upon the creation of Lee County, which attached a portion of Fayette County previously created out of Bastrop and Colorado Counties, and a portion of Burleson County taken from Milam. Fayette County lost another portion of its area to Lavaca County in 1846.

But according to the late Charles Rogan, one-time land commissioner of Texas, the Municipality of Mina was created in April 1834 by the legislature of Coahuila and Texas sitting at Monclova, and the Stephen F. Austin 1837 map of Texas shows it embraced the following territory:

All of Bastrop, Travis, Hays, Blanco, Gillespie, Llano, Kimble, Mason, San Saba, McCullough, Coleman and Brown counties; the south half of Callahan, a part of Comal, Kendall and Kerr counties, the north half of Edwards, the east half of Sutton, the greater part of Burnet, the west half of Mills and Lampasas counties, the greater parts of Lee and Fayette counties and a part of Caldwell county.

Rogan says that within the territory are now situated the City of Austin and the towns of Bastrop, Giddings, LaGrange, Lockhart, San Marcos, Johnson City, Fredericksburg, Kerrville, Junction, Mason, Llano, Burnet, San Saba, Brady, Coleman, Brownwood and Goldthwaite. On the outside of the line of the old municipality are the towns of New Braunfels, Norene, Rock Springs, Baird and Lampasas. He says that eighty square miles were sliced from Bastrop County and attached to Lee County when it was created in 1874.

During the days of the municipality, the larger part of its area, most of that portion to the northwest, west and southwest, was occupied entirely by Indians. It had never been surveyed, probably much of it never visited by a white man and its limits were very indefinite.

Travis County when created in 1840 took from Bastrop County the following: Burnet, Comal, Gillespie and Hays counties, all of which contributed later to the creation of Blanco County; Lampasas County, out of which Mills and Hamilton counties in part were carved; Brown County, which later lost some of its area to Mills, Callahan, Coleman, a portion of Eastland, Runnels and Taylor. Portions of these last five counties had never been a part of Bastrop county, however, both had been in the Milam municipality. This information relating to Travis county is according to Fulmore.

The present area of Bastrop County is 867 square miles. No figures are available relative to the size of Bastrop County when first organized, but it was larger than the present state of Rhode Island and perhaps as large as Delaware.

The present area of Travis county is 1004 square miles.

Williamson county has now an area of 1129 square miles and Lee county has 562 square miles.

Cultural Organization Of Early Bastrop

PAPER PRESENTED AT
BASTROP HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MARCH, 1955
MRS. EARL M. DENMAN

Prior to the Civil War, the pioneer families of Bastrop County had little time for organizations and cultural life. Most of their lives evolved around the necessity of protecting their homes from Mexicans and Indians, for raising crops and for attending to the religious and educational needs of their families, the latter taking place mostly within the family circle. To say that these first families were not cultural would be a misstatement but because of poor means of transportation and communication, they did not organize into societies and the like, except for protection or governmental representation. Even though the Methodist Church was organized in 1835 and held its annual conference in Bastrop in 1843, I doubt that it sponsored such organizations as Ladies Aid, Epworth League, Home and Foreign Missionary Societies until 1890. So most of my discussion will be confined to the latter half of the 19th Century.

It would be impossible for me to discuss all of the political, military, educational, religious, and social organization that came into existence throughout this period for cultural growth was rapid after the War and gained momentum during the gay nineties. I will confine my talk to the Masonic Lodge, The Opera House, and a few cultural organizations that developed because of the fine women who sponsored them.

First, I will list some of the fraternal orders that have been organized in Bastrop in the last 75 years. The Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) and the Rebeccas which held meetings in the upstairs of the Hasler Building on Chestnut Street. The Woodman of the World (W.O.W.) and the Woodmen Circle, which met upstairs over the Bastrop Furniture Company or Iron Front Saloon, Modern Woodman of America, (O.D.H.'s) or Sons of Herman, Macabees, Junior Order United Woodman and the Knights of Pythias. The latter met upstairs in the old Claiborne building which was on the corner next to the Advertiser building. In addition to these there have been Masonic Lodges and the Eastern Star and two negro lodges and an Eastern Star.

Freemasonry had its beginning in Texas in 1828, when Stephen F. Austin and others petitioned the Mexican government for a dispensation to organize a Chapter at San Felipe. The Mexicans distrusted the early settlers so much that they delayed the sending of the Charter. When it was received, it was carried around in Austin's saddle bags for a long time. The Masonic Oak under which this lodge was organized still stands in Brazoria County. By 1860 Texas had 269 lodges with 10,000 members and Bastrop was among this number.

Bastrop Lodge No. 53 was chartered in 1850 and demised in 1857. The only person that I know was a member was T. J. Hardeman, the man for whom Hardeman County was named. In 1850, Mr. Hardeman was chosen Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

It has been the custom of the Masonic Lodge to publish addresses made by fellow Masons. In this way the lodge has exerted a cultural influence upon the towns of the nation. Some of the addresses are numbered among the early Texas imprints. In Mrs. O. P. Jones' scrapbook can be found the beautiful address that Judge Dyer Moore made at the installation of officers on June 1, 1879. There is also a petition, signed by T. C. Cain, Chester Erhard, and A. Wiseman, asking that this address be published in the Advertiser because "it would be instructive to the Craft and interesting to the readers generally."

The early history of education in Texas parallels that of Freemasonry. In 1845, the Grand Lodge set aside 10 per cent of its annual revenue for education. By 1854, there were fourteen Masonic Schools throughout Eastern and Central Texas. Gamble Lodge No. 244 A.F. and A.M. was chartered June 12, 1863; however, it had operated under a dispensation before the Charter was granted. J. R. Nichols, grandfather of Mrs. E. S. Orgain, was a member before the lodge was chartered. The first officers of the Chartered lodge were James T. Camp, Worshipful Master, J. H. Lane, Senior Warden, and J. C. Higgins, Junior Warden. Joseph D. Sayers, a member of this lodge, was the second Bastropian to be chosen Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas. This occurred in 1875.

The first home of the lodge was the upper floor of a two story frame building located on the corner of Chestnut and Pecan. The lower floor was occupied by Mrs. S. J. Orgain's Colorado Institute. The lodge purchased its present home from Dr. H. P. Luckett, May 5, 1892. The property was a part of the Charlie Haynie estate. The lodge bought the upper story, the stairway and one half of the lot of the site now owned by

the Walter Rosankys.

The Woman's Auxiliary "The Eastern Star", Chapter No. 64, was chartered October 10, 1901. Mrs. W. A. McCord was Worthy Matron, Captain T. C. Cain, Worthy Patron, and Miss Cora Erhard, Associate Matron.

In Bastrop County, prior to 1900, there were lodges at Red Rock, No. 310, Chartered June 12, 1863; one at Elgin, No. 223, June 18, 1870; one at Smitville, The J. W. Nixon Lodge No. 421, Chartered June 5, 1875, and the McDade Lodge No. 664, December 12, 1888.

Information for this section of this paper was secured from Lloyd Hood, and the William Henry Korges thesis, "Historical and Educational Development of Bastrop County", Mrs. O. P. Jones' Scrap Book, Miss Esther Anderson's book, "Handbook of Texas", published by the Texas Historical Society in 1952.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, who traced the land titles of the Opera House property for me, I learned that the original owner, William Brisbane, received his deed from Municipality of Mina, May 4th, 1838. The property changed hands several times before 1853, when John T. Miller bought it and built a livery stable. In 1866, it became the property of R. S. Green. In 1889, his son, Dave Green, and P. O. Elzner, purchased the property and built the Opera House. In 1901, Mr. Elzner became the sole owner. In 1903, it became the property of W. J. Miley, W. J. Hill, W. B. Kansome, who sold it in 1909 to Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Jones and Lee Olive, and it became known as the Arian Opera House. In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Earl Erhard and Iago Meusebach purchased it and called it the Strand Theatre. They retained ownership of it until 1942 when it was sold to J. G. Long. In 1950, Mr. Lockwood and Mr. Mitchell bought it and now Mr. M. Mitchell is sole owner.

The Opera House was erected at a cost of \$15,000.00 and was considered one of the finest in the State in 1890. It was rushed to completion by the carpenters working on Sunday. This certainly caused a stir among the older people.

The Volunteer Firemen opened the Opera House with a fancy dress ball before the seats and platform were put in it.

The interior of the theatre was constructed with a balcony, orchestra pit, with a door leading under the stage for the orchestra's entry. There was also a large stage, dressing rooms for the actors, scenery that permitted several changes and a drop curtain that could be raised by rolling up and down by means of weights, ropes, and pulley. The curtain had a Lake Como Scene and advertisements of the local business men painted upon it. The scenery was painted so that a woodland or outdoor scene could be developed. There was also a very plain interior scene and one that was suitable for more elaborate settings. The traveling companies usually brought the necessary properties suitable for the occasion. The furniture was borrowed from Mrs. Miley or any one who would loan it.

In looking over Mrs. Jones' scrap book, I came across programs and writeups of a few of the classic entertainments. One mentioned that Rosos' Orchestra performed here. Rosos is the Mexican composer who gave us "Sobra Los Olos", "Over the Waves". Another account tells of the Great Levy Co., under the direction of Fred Pelham, which presented the following artists, Edward Hasselberg, concert pianist, Stella Costa, soprano, The Great Jules Levy and Laura Dainty. Their selections were from Lizst, Paderewski and others. There was always an intermission so that the audience could relax and visit in the foyer. Another account tells of Miss Nellie Stevens, graduate of Vassar, favorite pupil of Lizst, who was presented December 31, 1890. Another was headed the "Grandest Treat of the Season." Professor Joseph Heine, the blind violinist, and the greatest in the world, who has surpassed the crowned heads of Europe and baffled the musical critics of the world, was coming to Bastrop February 26, 1891. Still another entitled an "Evening of Mosaics," "Miss Denig of Chicago", gifted expositor of Delsarte method of physical culture and elocution was presented March 30, 1891, for the benefit of the Sayers Rifles. Miss Denig's first two selections were from Shakespeare's Henry III, Act 2, Scene 4, and Act. IV, Scene I. The interest of the evening was at its height when "The Silent Art" was given. This was an exposition of the capabilities of physical culture and it was truly the poetry of motion. The entertainment was interspersed with music by the Wizard Oil Band and amateur talent of Bastrop.

Education and culture are synonymous when we mention three of the fine women of the 90's, Mrs. S. J. Orgain, Mrs. Mollie McDowell, and Mrs. Emma Holmes Jenkins. All were teachers and organizers of clubs that left their imprint upon the entire populace of Bastrop.

The Francis Folsom Cleveland Club was organized by the advanced students of Mrs. S. J. Orgain's Colorado Institute soon after Cleveland's inauguration. Cleveland married Francie Folsom in the White House, and she became an idol of many young women. She was very photogenic and had pictures made in many poses. The club wrote to Mrs. Cleveland and she sent them an auto-

graphed picture. This photograph was hung in the part of the school room where the club held its meetings.

Mrs. Miley stated, "The club was literary in nature, and selected officers each year and conducted its business according to parliamentary law."

Mrs. Orgain attended the Chataqua in New York about 1892. Upon her return, she, Miss Lena Sayers and Miss Frankie Rogan held weekly meetings to study classic literature and to discuss the lectures she had attended. After several years of study, they termed this study a kind of Chataqua. Mrs. Miley said that in all probability "The Ladies Reading Circle", organized in 1897, was an outgrowth of this small beginning.

Mrs. McDowell and her daughter, Ruth, were a part of everything musical in the town. Mrs. McDowell organized "The Musical Union", for adults. An open meeting of the Club was held at Mrs. McDowell's Conservatory of Music, March 5, 1889. The following program was rendered: Piano and organ, Mrs. B. D. Orgain and Miss McDowell. Two piano numbers, Misses Lula Reynolds, Ruth McDowell, Belle Moore, and Mr. Eugene Erhard. Mixed Quartet, Mrs. W. A. McCord, Miss Reynolds, Robert L. Batts, and Prof. Hood. Solo, Mrs. McCord. Men's chorus, R. L. and Ed Batts, C. Highsmith, Professor Hood, Dr. Hunter. Solo, Miss Olive. Another chorus, Mrs. Orgain, Misses Kate Orgain, Ruth McDowell and Lula Reynolds. The meeting closed with a male chorus singing, "Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground."

Mrs. McDowell organized the St. Cecelia Orchestra and its director was Miss Delia Reynolds. The first concert was given at the Opera House December 22, 1891, as a benefit for the "Ladies Cemetery Association." Miss Reynolds received very favorable comment on her conducting.

On October 7, 1892, the St. Cecelia Orchestra gave a program at the Opera House preceding the Comic Operetta "Penelope". Familiar names on the program were Miss Ella Batts, Miss McDowell, O. P. Jones, Miss Belle Moore, Eugene Erhard, and Will Miller.

On April 8, 1893, the Bastrop Dramatic Club presented "Hazel Kirk" for the benefit of the Public School Library. The St. Cecelia Orchestra furnished the music. Members of the cast were Ruth McDowell, Will Miller, Ethel Jones, Eugene Erhard, Mr. Van Orden, Miss Laura Jones, Robert Grimes, Ed Batts, Jack Jenkins, Miss Grace Rice, J. B. Rogers, Supt. of School. The Club was under the direction of Mrs. Grimes, Miss Hutig, Mr. Van Orden and Mr. Fontaine. The Dramatic Club, accompanied by many citizens went to LaGrange on Saturday, where they played the thrilling drama to an enthusiastic audience.

This clipping from the Bastrop Advertiser dated December 12, 1891, gave an account of still another club sponsored by Mrs. McDowell.

"The Fortnightly Club met November 26, 1891, at the residence of Mrs. McDowell. Each member answered roll call with a good quotation. Selections from the best composers were well rendered by pupils, showing great improvement. Readings suitable to the occasion added much to the evenings entertainment. The club as a body thanked Judge Dyer Moore for a selection on Rubenstein's Piano Playing." (Mrs. Miley said his readings were always very amusing.) After the program was carried out, Mrs. McDowell questioned the smaller pupils "on the use of scales and technique", who by their answers did credit to themselves as well as to their excellent teacher. The club adjourned to meet December 12, 1891, at the residence of Judge Moore. Beulah Green, Sec. (Mrs. N. G. Fowler)

The Fortnightly Club put on a home talent entertainment at the Opera House 1891, for the purpose of raising funds to purchase a library of good musical literature for the club. A large audience was present and was much interested in the program which consisted of good selection of instrumental and vocal music.

Mrs. Emma Holmes Jenkins was a writer, educator and organizer. She organized a community or literary club at Hills Prairie about 1880. She called this club a Glee Club though it was not a musical club. After her marriage in 1881, she organized a similar club at Eight Live Oaks where she taught school. These clubs prove that this woman, before the day of recreation commissions, did what she could to provide wholesome pleasure and channels of expression.

In 1891, Mrs. Jenkins organized "The Bastrop Histrionic and Literary Society. She was its first president and it met weekly. The society put on many home talent plays, so Mrs. Jenkins was asked one day if it was a dramatic club. Her reply follows: "Tho it engaged in dramatics at times, that is not the purpose of the Club. It was organized to meet the needs of all lovers of Art, Music, Literature, Humanity and God."

The Histrionic Society presented a thrilling drama, "Among the Brakers" at the Opera House Tuesday, May 24, benefit of the Calvary Episcopal Church. The cast included Eugene Erhard, J. A. Erhard, Elwood Moore, Will Miller, Oliver Jones, Ben Richards, Mrs. J. A. Erhard, Belle Moore, and Lula Goodman.

The Histrionic Society also presented on Dec-

ember 5, 1891, "True as Steel", a benefit for Will Kennedy and family. The cast was composed of T. W. Cain, C. C. Highsmith, E. E. Moore, T. H. Jenkins, Oliver Jones, Will Milsop, Jack Jenkins, Laura Cain, Maynard Fowler, Will Thompson, Maggie Green, and Laura Jones.

On April 21, 1892, a benefit was given for the Christian Church, "Above the Clouds." Cast T. H. Jenkins, W. J. Miley, C. C. Highsmith, Eugene Erhard, Oliver Jones, Ben Richards, Laura Cain, Misses Sarah and Sallie Wilson.

This performance was a joint project of the Bastrop Historic Society, Fortnightly Club, and the St. Cecelia Orchestra.

In front of the orchestra was the dress circle and about midway, the elevated portion began. Captain's chairs were placed on different height removable platforms, and all chairs and rows were numbered. The best entertainment available was booked, a guarantee of as much as \$250.00 a night was offered in order to attract the best. I have been told that the Opera "Faust" and others were presented. Such road shows as "Polly of the Circus" minus the horses was also booked. Concert artists, home talents and benefits always played to packed houses. Bastrop was a center of culture, and encouraged the best in that field.

Many years ago this town was widely known as an educational center. Many of our eminent jurists, legislators, governors, and congressmen learned in this little town the lessons that were the beginning of a successful career in church and state. This distinction the town has never lost, for her people have always been among the most cultured, refined and intellectual men and women of the state.

Methodist Volunteer Choir Is Organized Here In 1926

By Mrs. E. F. Pearcy

The choir of the Methodist Church of Bastrop is a volunteer choir of 24 members. It was organized in 1926 during the pastorate of the Rev. R. F. Curl, with Mrs. W. J. Rogers as director, and Miss Lee Wilbarger as organist.

At the time of its organization, the choir consisted of mixed voices, and remained so until 1941, when it became a choir of female voices.

It has always been self-sustaining with the exception of donations from friends who are keenly interested in its progress. Its directors, organists, soloists and other members have been unremunerated except, perhaps, by the greatest gifts of all—the expressions of appreciation that are incessantly forthcoming and the knowledge that a real service is being rendered to God.

The choir is especially proud of its repertoire of music, having on file in alphabetical order, and using 125 anthems and 15 cantatas, as well as a varied selection of solos, duets, trios, quartettes, sextettes, etc. It is also proud of its reputation of peaceful fellowship, having learned in its infancy that petty jealousies, selfishness and sharp tongues have no part in an organization of the church, and that humility, kindness, and prayerful diligence are the things that must remain uppermost in the hearts of each member.

It has answered every call, whether it was to cheer patients at hospitals, to cooperate with other choirs in community singing, to give programs in other communities, or to join in mourning the loss of a fellow citizen. It has striven through the years to "hold up the arms" of its pastor, to cooperate with him, to be counseled by him, and to lighten his load when possible, as well as to add beauty to the worship services through prayer and praise in song.

Former members of the choir include the following: Mrs. W. J. Rogers, director, 1926-1948; Miss Lee Wilbarger, organist; Mrs. H. N. Bell, Sr., Mrs. Richard Starcke, Mrs. J. N. Jenkins, Mrs. Walter Hasler, Mrs. John O. Turner, Mrs. P. C. Maynard, Mrs. L. C. Price, Mrs. W. S. Millington, Mrs. C. B. Maynard, Mrs. Milton F. Hill, Mrs. Kenneth R. Duff, Mrs. H. M. Roberson, Miss Betty Maynard, Miss Mary Maynard, Mrs. Miriam Schuelke and organist, Mrs. Maude Herndon, Miss Vivian Wilson, Mrs. Ireland Allbright, Miss Charline Powell, Mrs. Pearl Berry, Mrs. James H. Perkins, Mrs. Joe Pfeiffer, Jr., Miss Margaret Ann Pfeiffer, Mrs. J. W. Griffin, Miss Myra Beth Griffin, Miss Mary Jo Bennight, Miss Frances Bennight, Miss Anna Joyce Leath, Mrs. Alex Waugh, Miss Katherine Alton, soloist; Mrs. Shirley Lovell, soloist.

Walter Hasler, E. S. Orgain, J. N. Jenkins, Howard Jenkins, Price Jenkins, Tom Jenkins, W. B. Dawson, L. O. Henington, W. S. Millington, Gus A. Schaefer, Dr. A. C. Smith, James H. Perkins, E. F. Pearcy, E. W. Switzer, soloist.

At present, Mrs. F. W. Denison is director, and Mrs. E. F. Pearcy, organist.

The membership includes the following: Mrs. Addie Mae Powell, Mary Clay LeSueur, Elnora Dolgener, Mrs. R. W. Loveless, Mrs. Curtis Sawyer, Kay Gore, Mrs. John Allen, Bennie Smith, Billye Perry, Mrs. Annie Lee Alexander, Mrs. Robert Comstock, Ione Hoffman, Mrs. Arthur Edwards, Mrs. Milton Perkins, Gladys Striegler, Mrs. W. B. Ransome, Mrs. Alma Schaefer, Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, Linda Moncure.

Cedar Creek Uprisings Just After Civil War Recounted

JEPHTHA BILLINGSLEY

(Taken from the 1935 Historical edition of the Advertiser)

During the Reconstruction period in Texas following the Civil War, things got mighty bad and rough in my home community Cedar Creek; lawlessness from both whites and blacks was evident on all sides. As soon as the Bastrop County Negroes heard they were free, they were made acquainted with Gov. Hamilton's proclamation of June 19, 1865, and many of them became absolutely wild. There seemed to be no way at all to appeal to their better nature, and before long a lot of devilment had been put into their heads by some of those little Yankees who were down here, and who kept coming for several years.

The Negroes soon organized themselves into the Loyal League, and Sam Fowler, also a Negro, was their captain. Every Saturday the League would meet at Cedar Creek Store and some 30 or 40 of them would drill up and down the road there with their guns and different weapons. The sight of them dressed in their odd assortment of clothes and their queer get-up of almost every kind of fire arms was really very comical, but the consequences of their actions were too serious at that time for us to see the funny side of the situation.

My father, Jesse Billingsley of San Jacinto fame, of course had no patience with the League's conduct and told our former Negro slave that he'd have to leave the place if he joined that bunch; hence, our Negro didn't join! Soon, however, matters got in such shape that father told a group of white citizens who had met to discuss the matter that inasmuch as he knew Governor Hamilton—had known him as a boy—he would make it his business to go to Austin and report the matter to him.

When father got to the Capitol, he was rather surprised to see the Yankee guards at every door, and going to the Governor's office, he called, "Hello, Jack, what does this mean? I never saw anything like this before!" Governor Hamilton assured father that the guards would do him no harm, and invited him in. He and the Governor had a long talk concerning public matters and father says that he asked the Governor to put a stop to the Loyal League, which the latter promised to do if things were as father said they were.

We never did find out just how the Governor handled the matter, but not long after father's visit and the Governor's promise to him, the Negroes at Cedar Creek ceased their Saturday drillings, and all other open evidence of League activities were abandoned.

Although their Loyal League was no longer in existence, the Negroes at Cedar Creek nevertheless grew to be quite powerful in number and influence, and in the election of 1888, I believe it was they succeeded in electing two of their men as Justice of the Peace and Constable of Cedar Creek precinct. Sons and daughters of the Confederacy who were living in this old Southern Community resented bitterly having to look for protection and justice from these inexperienced and ignorant people who had recently had their shackles of slavery removed; feeling between the whites and blacks became intense.

Some months after the officers had been sworn into office, a complaint was filed against one of Frank Litton's boys, and the Negro constable, Ike Wilson, came to Mr. Litton's house to serve the papers on him. Kenny Murchison happened to be at the Litton house at the time and when he learned what was about to take place, he told Litton he wouldn't suffer to let the Negro serve the citation. Litton readily agreed, and immediately commanded the constable to get a white officer. The Negro obeyed, and Deputy Sheriff Holland, who happened to be in Cedar Creek, served the papers.

The Justice Court was held in a little house near the stores at Cedar Creek, and on the next Court day a great number of Negroes were in evidence on the Cedar Creek street and in the court room. The usual number of white visitors at Court were also present. Practically every Negro was armed; all sorts of weapons were visible and for a time it really appeared that the Loyal League had once more come to life. Ed Maynard was the prosecuting attorney at this time and J. P. (Pet) Fowler was there to defend young Litton.

As soon as Court opened, Maynard told the Justice Orange Wicks, "Judge, I see a good many armed men around here, and I think it advisable to put this case off." But Wicks at once replied, "the White folks have had their day at running this court, and some of the rest of us will have ours now. The case will proceed."

Just about that time Litton who was near the court room door, said to the Negro deputy who sat near him with a gun across his lap, "I want to step out and get me a drink of water." Just as he stepped out, the Negro called, "hold on, Mr. Litton", and when Litton turned around in response to the call the constable shot straight at

him, but the bullet happened just to graze the top of the front of Litton's head. Instantly much shooting took place.

Alex Nolan and Paul Shuff were sitting on the ground outside near the corner of the house up to this time with two Negroes standing right over them all the while. As soon as they heard the shooting inside, they raised up to see what the fuss was about, but the instant they did so, one of the Negroes commenced to fire, and both Alex and Paul were killed.

It so happened that not very many of the whites were armed. Willie Strother was the only one with a Winchester, and John White, the former deputy, and Bud Christopher had pistols. I'm sure there were others who had arms, but the above are the only ones I remember the names of. It seems every one was anxious to get the Negro constable first, and he in turn seemed anxious to kill John White. The Constable was inside the Court Room, and every time he stuck his head out near the door, some one would take a crack at him. As result, the door was simply shot full of holes that day. The constable finally got away from the house, it seems, by running out with a bunch of other Negroes.

One Negro was killed, however, as he was running out of the door, and Pete Bell was shot as he was climbing out of a window. He managed to crawl under the house and later was found dead under there. He was really an inoffensive Negro, and every body knew it, but it was like some of the men said, "by that time we were shooting everything that was black".

Although only two whites and two blacks were killed that day, the whites swore revenge on every Negro suspected of having a hand in the day's program, and one by one they were gotten rid of. Many of the negroes didn't take a chance, and slipped out of the community immediately. Some were guilty and some were not, but it was about seven years before the final man was gotten. The men were "gotten" in various ways, and Cal Thompson, a Negro of much influence in the community, was finally shot by two white men who followed Thompson out of Bastrop one afternoon. They pursued and overtook him, and fired the fatal shots when he was just a little more than a quarter of a mile from his house.

At least 100 men saw who killed Cal Thompson, but not a one would tell anything. Cal Thompson was nothing but a trouble maker and both sides were glad he was killed.

The negroes with but one exception, Charlie Clark, were captured or surrendered.

Sheriff H. N. (Mann) Bell and his mother were visiting Old Texana, Jackson County, at the time in the home of Mrs. Sallie Smith, an aunt. A telegram was sent him about the affair, and he proceeded to come to Bastrop as soon as possible.

The Community of Cedar Creek was in a pitch of excitement. Sheriff Bell talked to the people around Cedar Creek community, telling them that he would catch the Negroes if they could get the armed crowd to return to their homes.

Word was sent to the Sheriff that Ike Wilson, constable, and Orange Wicks, justice of the peace, were in hiding and would surrender only to Mann Bell, for they knew he would protect them. When Ike Wilson surrendered, he made one request—that he be allowed to carry his gun until he was lodged in jail at Austin. Sheriff Bell sent him word that he could have an arsenal. He surrendered and was carried to Austin.

This And That About Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

Roger Abbey was manager of the Airdome Theatre, where moving pictures were shown every night. This was a good place to spend an hour of pleasure during the Fair in 1912.

Jolly Fred Schweitzer wished it to be distinctly understood that he would continue through the summer of 1873 to supply his saloon with Bosting ice, by which he was prepared to serve his friends cool lemonade and beverages.

J. Harmon, operating a Photograph Gallery on the Main Street of downtown Bastrop, advised one and all that he would accept "nice country butter in exchange for pictures." In 1873.

His card read: For Governor—Col George W. Jones. Subject to the action of the Democratic State Convention. 1873.

Could apples be grown in Bastrop County? In 1873, Mr. Garwood showed his friends an apple which was raised on a farm at Hill's Prairie, Bastrop County. The apple weighed 14 ounces and measured 13 inches in circumference.

Mrs. J. C. Higgins had also grown some fine peaches in 1873.

Captain J. W. Cain owned a fine farm 8 miles above Bastrop. His cotton and corn crop were among the best in Bastrop County in 1873. His plantation consisted of about 700 acres.

Ed B. Burleson announced for the office of sheriff in 1874.

W. A. Standifer announced for re-election to the office of Treasurer of Bastrop County in 1874.

William Fehr operated a cabinet shop on Bastrop's Main Street. He had in stock some beautiful walnut furniture.

Town Stirs As Camp Swift Construction Begins

(Taken from the combination edition of the Bastrop Advertiser and the Elgin Courier, issued in July, 1942, on the activation of Camp Swift.)

Behind every successful man, they say, there is a wife who makes him the man he is.

Equally true is the statement that behind every successful civic enterprise there are a handful of people who baby the project along until it reaches fulfillment.

So it was on the \$25,000,000 Camp Swift project located in the heart of Bastrop County.

More than two years ago, when the United States first became defense-conscious, the people of Central Texas began to cast about for sites which could be transformed into multi-million-dollar projects.

But it was not until June of 1940 that a move actually got under way to bring a project to the area.

At that time it became apparent that Uncle Sam was really in earnest about training a big army and new training camps were soon to be needed and the citizenship of Austin, Smithville, Bastrop and Elgin began to bestir themselves through their respective Chambers of Commerce to familiarize themselves with the moves which were necessary to secure the establishment of such camps, and decided that Bastrop County was a most practical area for a large camp.

The next month committees from each of these places met and consolidated their interests and efforts. In August and September of 1940, briefs were prepared setting forth all pertinent facts pertaining to the Bastrop area, were presented to Gen. H. J. Brees, commander of the Eighth Corps Area in San Antonio and from there were sent to the war department.

During the next few months, civic leaders of the four towns were busy with detailed surveys and reports on available lands on highways, railways, railroad and power line facilities, water and gas supplies, and even lists of available housing in Bastrop, Elgin and nearby cities for use of officers' families were compiled and furnished the war department. Army officers were taken over the sites and shown the cities and their facilities.

Several analyses of water, both river and well, were made for the proposed camp.

Senator Paul D. Page of Bastrop was named general chairman of all committees to secure the land. He was assisted by a committee composed of representatives of all the towns—W. E. Beal and Homer D. Wade of Smithville, John A. Freeman and Grover C. Westbrook of Elgin and A. B. Spires and Walter Long of Austin.

Throughout the fall of 1940, work continued on the project, although the war department had offered no hope that it would be realized.

During the winter and spring of 1941, more than 20 meetings were held, most of them joint conferences with representatives at Bastrop, Smithville and Elgin.

Then in July came word from Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson that Uncle Sam was to build 14 new camps in the nation and that Bastrop would be one of them.

A contract was let to Freeze and Nichols of Ft. Worth to survey the site and draw plans for the proposed camp.

Central Texans began to feel their work was paying off. Bastrop citizens began to spruce up their stores, speculators moved to town and began leasing buildings. Smithville and Elgin also began making preparations and a feeling of expectancy prevailed throughout the entire area, awaiting definite word.

Then came a "gloomy Thursday" in September when Congressman Johnson, speaking before representatives of the four towns, announced there was little hope that the camp would be built—"The army is not going to be expanded. The 14 camps may never be built."

Bastrop's business boom came to a standstill. Her citizens were shocked but with it all rather pleased.

"If our not getting the camp means that the United States won't be involved in the war, we'll gladly give up the camp," was the general opinion.

In November, Freeze and Nichols completed its survey, the plans were sent to General Brees and to Washington. Everyone in the four-city area figured they'd be shelved.

But they, like the rest of the nation, did not count on Pearl Harbor.

It was not long after that shocking day that bids were called and contracts were let to eight different firms for construction.

The rest of the story is contemporary history, touching closely the lives of every citizen of Bastrop, Smithville and Elgin, and reaching even into Austin.

Early in January, army engineers moved on to the camp site and began setting out stakes. A few days later, the war department announced the naming of the camp in honor of Maj-Gen. Eben Swift.

Fifty-two thousand acres of land were purchased and the people living in the area were forced

to give up their homes and farms, many of which were occupied by families whose parents and grandparents had lived there before them and who had never known any other home.

While it seemed a hardship on them to give up these homes, they accepted it and made the sacrifice as an act of patriotic loyalty to help win the war.

Many of them accepted employment during the construction and this, together with the payment received for their land enabled them to purchase and occupy new homes in other sections.

In June, 1942 just two years after the first efforts were started to secure the camp, the construction was about completed and the camp ready for occupancy.

Mrs. R. A. Brooks Early Member of WMU

By MRS. HARTFORD JENKINS

The early records of the First Baptist Church of Bastrop, Texas, having been destroyed or mislaid, and there being no charter members of the church living, we have no way of ascertaining when the W. M. U. had its beginning.

However, we do know from information communicated to us by Mrs. R. A. Brooks that the Church was organized in the year 1887, and Mrs. S. J. Orgain was a charter member.

Probably in 1883 the Ladies Aid Society, as it was then called, was organized with Mrs. Orgain the president, and Mrs. A. T. Morris a member, both of whom are now deceased.

In the year 1890, Mrs. R. A. Brooks became a member of the church, and shortly thereafter became a member of the Society, and Mrs. S. J. Orgain remained the president until her death in 1924.

During the eight of ten years following the organization of the Ladies Aid Society, the following ladies joined the Society and were active and faithful members for many years: Mrs. S. J. Orgain, Mrs. J. H. Craft, Mrs. A. T. Morris, Mrs. Bettie Price, Mrs. R. A. Brooks, Mrs. Cassius Moncure, Mrs. Walter Norment, Mrs. K. M. Trigg, Sr., Mrs. Kate Turner, Mrs. Bettie Tribble and Mrs. Jim Moore. Mrs. A. T. Morris served the organization as Secretary at that time and for a number of years. Mrs. R. A. Brooks was elected Treasurer of the Love Offering and served in that post for some time.

Later the name of the Society was changed to the Woman's Missionary Society, and finally to the Woman's Missionary Union, and it is still known by that name.

Upon the passing of Mrs. S. J. Orgain, which occurred on the 25th day of July, 1924, Mrs. Garrard, wife of the Pastor of the church at that time, was elected and served one year. Her husband died while Pastor, after which time she moved away from Bastrop.

Mrs. Hartford Jenkins was elected president of the W. M. U. on August 25th, 1925 and served in that capacity for 16 years.

In 1941 Mrs. Bonnie Grimes was elected president and served several years.

Following Mrs. Grimes in the office of president was Mrs. Gerald Stephens, who served several months and had to move away.

Then Mrs. A. P. Smith was elected president and served for two years.

Mrs. C. G. Goddard was elected to fill the office of president for the next year.

Mrs. Quinton Allen was elected to fill the place of Mrs. C. G. Goddard as president of the W.M.U.

Mrs. J. V. Ash, Sr., was elected president of the organization in September of 1952, and served during 1953 and 1954. Mrs. S. D. Rorem is the present president.

The Woman's Missionary Union is, next to the Sunday School, probably the oldest Auxiliary in the church in point of organization and continuous service.

As the name of the Auxiliary indicates, much time is spent in study of Missionary Work and in the application of what is learned in such studies. Any woman in the church is eligible to become a member. Meetings are held once a week, usually in the various homes of the members. The body is now large enough to be divided into several Circles. These Circles meet separately for three meetings each month, and the fourth meeting is of the entire group. The W. M. U. has, through the years, contributed much to the work of the cause of Christianity both at home and abroad.

The W. M. U. is now looking forward to many more years of fruitful service in the work of the First Baptist Church of Bastrop, and it is hoped that their future may even be brighter than their most worthy record of the past.

Main Street Burns In 1862

Practically every building along Main Street in Bastrop was destroyed in the spring of 1862. Most of the buildings were of frame construction and following the fire, they were replaced with brick structures, several of which stand today. The A. J. Knittel building is one of that number.

American Legion Auxiliary Organized October 20, 1947

By Miss Mary Belle Oldfield

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas Unit to James H. Perkins Post No. 533 was organized on October 20, 1947, in the Bastrop County District Court Room. Dr. and Mrs. I. A. Sheppard of Taylor were there to aid with the organization. Bower Crider who, at that time, was Post Commander, was a strong instigator in plans for the organization.

The Legion Post was named in honor of James H. Perkins, who gave his life for our country, during World War II.

Gold Star Mothers of the organization are Mrs. Lena Perkins and the late Mrs. Jennie Haines.

Officers for the Unit are elected by the members each year to serve from October to September. The past presidents are as follows: Mrs. Dorothy Lee Ash, 1947-1948; Mrs. Mary Beulah Perkins, 1948-1949; Mrs. Faye DeGlandon, 1949-1950; Mrs. Roberta Terry, 1950-1951; Mrs. Yvonne Brannon, 1951-1952 and 1952-1953; Mrs. Dinah Sanders, 1953-1954; Mrs. Leah Frieda, 1955.

In January, 1948, the Auxiliary made its first membership drive. Those eligible are all wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of American Legion members and of men who lost their lives in World Wars, or who have died since honorably discharged, and all women who themselves were enrolled in armed forces in either war.

Bluebonnet Girl's State Convention is held in Austin each year, sponsored by the Auxiliary. The delegates for the past years were as follows: 1948, Miss Betty Turner; 1949, Miss La Verne Goertz; 1950, Miss Billye Perry; 1951, Miss Julia Lane; 1952, Miss Caroline Jackson; 1953, Miss Kay Marie Horner; 1954, Miss Kay Gore.

The Auxiliary contributes to the March of Dimes, Red Cross, Heart Drive, Cancer Drive and other welfare drives, and has taken an active part in helping the Girl Scouts and at present are sponsors of the Cub Scouts.

In November, 1949, the group started a project for a high school band. The members pledged to help support the band for an instructor for the summer months in 1950, with plans to continue to support the school band in any way.

The American Legion and the Auxiliary were hosts to the 10th District Convention in the fall of 1947, and the spring of 1952, held in Bastrop.

Memorial Day each year is Poppy Day for the Auxiliary in Bastrop. The Poppy is an emblem of the sacrifices of the men who gave their lives that our country might be saved. The disabled men in hospitals and their families are assisted through the sale of poppies since the Unit's Rehabilitation and Child Welfare funds are derived from the annual sale.

The past chairmen of the Poppy Sales have been as follows: 1948, Mrs. Belle Eskew; 1949, Mrs. Effie Sharp; 1950, Mrs. Leona Branyon; 1951, Mrs. Faye DeGlandon; 1952, Mrs. Dorothy Lee Ash; 1953, Mrs. Diana Sanders; 1954, Mrs. Marguerite Haynie; 1955, Mrs. Marjorie Simpson.

The rehabilitation work of the Auxiliary consists of all activities for the welfare of the disabled World War veterans, bringing physical comfort and mental cheer to the men in the hospitals. A donation is sent each year to a Veterans Hospital Gift Shop where veterans may choose Christmas gifts for their families, and in addition, a gift is sent to one hospitalized veteran. Members have made trips to McCloskey Hospital during Christmas time to visit and help in the gift shops. Last year thirty children, whose fathers were overseas, received Christmas gifts from the Auxiliary members.

For the past six years the Unit has entered floats in the Homecoming parades and has helped to make each Homecoming a success.

The Auxiliary Americanism project for the year was to place twelve copies of Clarence Manion's book, "The Key to Peace", in the Bastrop High School and to sponsor a contest on the book for high school students, with the winner eligible to enter in the state contest.

With the backing of the local people, the Auxiliary has a successful organization and they are proud of their work and membership.

The Auxiliary joins the American Legion to associate themselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of the American Legion;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Know Your County-

EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF BASTROP COUNTY BEFORE 1890

By Mrs. J. Gordon Bryson

(Presented as a program for the Bastrop Historical Society)

The early settling of Bastrop County needs to be looked at as part of the Westward tide of immigration of the United States. In the year 1803 the United States bought from France the vast territory included in the Louisiana Purchase. The Spaniards who conquered Mexico were the first to explore the land now called Texas. Coronado and De Soto were the first explorers, a mission was established by Espejo at El Paso in 1582, and upon the basis of their explorations, the Spaniards laid claim to a large sweep of territory north of the Rio Grande.

The French explorer La Salle founded a colony on Matagorda Bay in 1685, and thereafter until 1803 this territory was alternately in the possession of Spain or France. At the time of the Purchase, the Rio Grande was considered the southern boundary, but in 1819 the Sabinas was made the southern line. At that time many members of Congress, ridiculing the deal, declared that Louisiana would never be worth a dollar to the United States. In answer to that we have only to point out that thirteen states, in whole or in part, have been formed out of the Louisiana Purchase.

Thus the present area of Texas was Spanish territory, along with Mexico; and at that time, Mexico included what is now the Southwestern part of the United States. Mexico remained under Spanish rule until 1821 when it achieved its independence under a leader named Iturbide. Texas remained a state of Mexico until it seceded in 1836. During these years, Mexico was in constant turmoil and revolution against first one and then another leader, its inhabitants were a people who enjoyed this; in contrast, the pioneer settlers of Texas wanted none of this but desired nothing more than to establish themselves on their grants and carve homes out of the wilderness. Thus the two states had no common aim and could not form a common government. After the Louisiana Purchase, Spain was anxious to people Texas so as to protect herself against encroachment along the United States border. Official proclamations invited colonists to settle in her American Dominion under very liberal terms.

There were three men who figured largely in the colonization of Texas. There were Moses Austin and his son, Stephen Fuller Austin, the colonizers; and there was Enrique Neri Baron de Bastrop, who made his chief contribution to history in using his influence to enable Moses Austin to secure a large grant from the Mexican governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas, for the purpose of settling Anglo-Americans in Texas, and in rendering aid to Stephen F. Austin in the venture that culminated in the establishment of the Republic of Texas.

In the book, "The Life of Stephen F. Austin", written by Eugene C. Barker, professor of American History at the University of Texas, one learns the family background of Stephen F. Austin and here is given a statement by George P. Garrison, head of the Department of History of the University of Texas: "Of all men who have figured in American History, there are no other two who have attracted so little attention from their contemporaries and have yet done things of such vast and manifest importance, as Moses Austin and his son, Stephen. Their great work consisted in the making of Anglo-American Texas, an enterprise planned and begun by the one and carried into execution by the other.

The student will scarcely need to be reminded of the series of mighty effects, increasing in geometrical ratio, in magnitude and historical significance, that followed directly therefrom. Thus it runs: The Texas Revolution, and the Annexation of Texas, the Mexican War, and the acquisition of the Southwest below the forty-second parallel from the Rio Grande to the Pacific—a territory almost equal in extent to the Louisiana Purchase and which contains the bulk of the mineral wealth of the United States. How far and in what way all this has permanently affected our national life, it would take volumes to tell; but the profound and far reaching nature of the influences set in operation by the Austins is evident."

The reason for the fact that slight notice is taken of the men who follow peaceful pursuits, is aptly expressed by Stephen F. Austin—"A successful military chieftan is hailed with admiration and applause and monuments perpetuate his fame. But the bloodless pioneer of the wilderness, like the corn and cotton he causes to spring where it never grew before, attracts no notice. . . . No slaughtered thousands or smoking cities attest his devotion to the cause of human happiness, and he is regarded by the mass of the world as a humble instrument to pave the way for others."

Moses Austin was born in Durham, Connecticut, about 1764. At the age of 20, he married and in partnership with his brother, established a commercial house in Richmond, Virginia. This event carried Moses Austin to the threshold of that long career on the western frontier that started forces, as Professor Garrison observed, which led to the acquisition of one-fourth of the present area of the United States. A few years later, the brothers purchased a lead mine in western Virginia and operated it. Adventurous speculation brought reverses and Moses Austin made his second westward move. From the Governor-general of Louisiana, he obtained a grant of land in eastern Missouri for the purpose of mining lead, and in order to obtain this, he had to take the oath of allegiance to Spain. He operated the abundant mines and established the town of Potosi, and he prospered, gaining the admiration of all because of his uprightness and fair dealing. But this very quality led to another reverse. He had become a large stockholder of the bank of St. Louis and when that went to ruin in the panic of 1818 (following the War of 1812) Austin gave up all his property for the benefit of his creditors. The war had cut off his outlets to eastern markets and the depression was his ruin.

Again Moses Austin looked west to retrieve his broken fortunes. From chance travelers, he had learned something of conditions in Texas, and the idea of colonization grew in his mind. He knew that Spain had made liberal grants in Louisiana in the past, and hoped she would do the same in Texas to one who would introduce colonists. So he traveled to San Antonio de Bexar in December 1820, to put his proposition before Governor Martinez. But here he was ordered to leave Texas, and despondently left the audience room. Then a fortunate incident occurred that led to great results. On his way back to his quarters, Moses Austin encountered Baron de Bastrop, whom he had known in Louisiana years before. Baron de Bastrop, a person in high standing with the Spanish government, conferred with Governor Martinez, who then consented to forward Moses Austin's petition to the chief civil and military commandant of Texas and Coahuila at Monterrey. There the grant was approved, permitting the settlement of 300 families within an area of 200,000 acres. Terms of the grant were vague. No provision was made for administration, the location of the grant was unspecified, nothing was said about the size and price of individual allotments, nor was Austin's title defined. Moses Austin evidently regarded himself the proprietor of this acreage and believed that he could make his own terms with the settlers. He hastened back to Missouri to make plans for taking the colonists into Texas, but because of exposure and hardships on his return trip, he became ill and died, June 10th, 1821. This left the completion of his ambitious undertaking to his son, Stephen F. Austin.

Stephen Fuller Austin was born at the lead mines in Virginia, November 3, 1793. When his father moved to Missouri in 1799, he was at the impressionable age of six. This area was settled mostly by French Canadians and a sprinkling of Spaniards. Here he grew to manhood with an instinctive sympathetic understanding of the gentle, courteous, proud and sensitive people whose friendship and goodwill depended upon the observance of social niceties that Anglo-Americans often dismissed with self-conscious embarrassment. His great work was to be done among such people, and he was by association, fitted to deal with such in later life. He received a good education, finishing two and a half years of college in Lexington, Kentucky. While working with his father in the business, and holding responsible positions in public life, he grew into a man of liberal mind and unimpeachable integrity, and was at the beginning of a great career. He was twenty-seven years of age, well educated for his day, experienced in public service and business, patient, methodical, energetic and fair-spoken. From childhood he was acquainted with the characteristic social types that mingled on the southwestern border, and his family had an unquenchable faith in the frontier. Hearing from his father of his success at receiving a grant, he left for San Antonio de Bexar to join him. Enroute, the news reached him of his father's death. But he pressed on and reached San Antonio in August, 1821, and was authorized to carry on the colonization enterprise. He was permitted to explore the plain between the San Antonio and Brazos Rivers for the purpose of selecting a site for the colony. He returned to Louisiana and published the terms of his colony. A colonist must have credentials of good character, should be a Catholic or become one, must take the oath of allegiance to the Spanish government, be willing to take up arms in defense of Spain, be faithful to the king, and observe the political constitution of the Spanish monarchy. The first immigrants came in December 1822 and settled in the lower area between the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, near the present towns of Washington and Columbus. Supplies from Louisiana were to be brought by ship (Lively) but failed to reach the colony. They had to live on the products of the chase, and this was extremely dangerous because of the Indians roaming that area.

Mina, Or Bastrop

The original settlement on the left bank of the Colorado River, at the crossing of the Old San Antonio Road between San Antonio and Nacogdoches, was called Mina, probably in honor of the Spanish patriot, Xavier Mina; or it could have been because of the fact that mines played so large a part in the lives of the Austins. Later, the name was changed to Bastrop, in honor of Baron de Bastrop, who played so large a part in aiding Stephen F. Austin in the early days of colonization. The town was built to help protect the commerce of the road. In 1805, Manuel Bustamente ordered troops stationed at the ford, a stockade was built, and the place named Puesta del Colorado. Later it was intended to be the nucleus of Baron de Bastrop's German colony established in 1823, but this was abandoned because of Indian troubles.

The Mina records of March 24, 1825, show that the first official act of the Commissioner Miguel K. Arciniega, was the designing of the area and extent of the land. The plans were those of a Mexican town built about a central square, this to be called the Square of the Constitution. The block east of the square was to be for a church (Catholic, of course), and the houses for the priests.

The block to the west for the municipal buildings of the town; the block to the northwest for the slaughter house; the block to the north for the jail and house of correction; the block southwest and south of the municipal building to be used for schools and public education; the block at the extreme edge of town to the northeast to be for the cemetery.

The streets were to run north to south, and east to west, and were to be 20 varas in width (one vara equaling 33.38 inches), this making the street a fraction over 55 feet. But as the late Judge R. L. Batts declared in the memorial address on the life and services of his friend, H. M. Garwood: "The people who settled here were neither the 'adobe or hacienda' type. Among the first settlers were planters from older southern states. They came with their slaves and in the fertile valley, carved out great plantations from the forests along the banks of the Colorado. Under the laws of Coahuila and Texas, a village was laid out; schools and churches were established, and while the Indians were still contesting possession of the soil, a center of culture developed along the lines of life in the old Southern communities, grew up on the border of the frontier." For this reason, the early settlers built according to their ideas and customs and did not follow the "specifications" of the Mexican Commissioner very closely. However, we do have the narrow streets, as originally planned, and we have the cemetery to the northeast of the present town of Bastrop.

The real settling of the town began when Stephen F. Austin asked for a grant to settle 100 families on the banks of the Colorado, where the Old San Antonio Road crossed it, leading from Bexar to Nacogdoches. An established town at this ford would aid travelers on this much-used road. It would also further the settling of the interior, being a bulwark against the Indian tribes. Stephen F. Austin received the grant March 24, 1825, being allowed 6 years to fulfill the settling of the 100 families. This was known as the "Little Colony".

The first settlers came from Austin's lower colony. In 1828 a Thomas Thompson opened a small farm on the river, a short distance below what is now the town of Bastrop. He planted a crop of corn but returned to his family as he had not moved them because of Indian depredations. In July, on going back, he found Indians in possession and prepared to defend themselves. He returned home (what is now lower Fayette County) raised 10 men, and at dawn, they attacked and drove off the Indians, killing four.

But it was in 1829 that the first permanent settlers arrived. William Barton, Josiah Wilbarger, Reuben Hornsby and others traveled on horseback, in carryall, and in covered wagon across Texas to locate their headrights at Stephen F. Austin's "little colony" north of Mina, on the east side of the Colorado. Others included Martin Wells, Lemman and Jesse Barker, Uncle Bobby Mitchell of Mitchel Bend, which was just across the river from Hornsby Bend. Just later came Jim and Joe Manor, Joseph and George Duty, Isaac Castner, Tom Blair, the Webbers after whom Webberville was named. Dr. John Webber built the first house or fort on Webberville Prairie. Every home then erected was a fort, for Mina was the extreme frontier.

Along with Austin's colony came the Z. P. Cottle family, in a group of seven families. These had first lived in what is now Fayette County. These seven families were Cottle, Craft, Grimes, Highsmith, Parks, Ridgeway and White. They settled near the mouth of Alum Creek, on the east side of the river, three miles above present Smithville, nine miles east of Bastrop. A log fort was built and the seven families built cabins within this. The Indians were, at that time, not so much a danger as an annoyance, stealing horses, cattle, etc. Later Ridgeway became dissatisfied and moved east about ten miles, built a

fort of split logs, eight feet long and set in the ground. This enclosed more than an acre of ground. Then he abandoned it as the Indians became too troublesome, and then moved back to the settlement. This fort was then used by the Indians to keep their stolen horses. Ridgeway is in the area where the town of Paige is now.

Hills Prairie was named for Dr. A. M. Hill. It was located on the west side of the river, Dr. Hill being the first permanent settler who established a plantation in 1840. Edward Jenkins had settled on the prairie in 1829, but had been killed by the Indians. His widow sold the land to Wylie Hill, July 7, 1835. An account in the Centennial Edition of the Advertiser issued in 1935, written by Mrs. Eva Hill LeSueur Karling, tells of the first two men to build their strongholds in this prairie, Elisha M. Barton and Edward Jenkins. "Barton's league included the present Clifford Hubbard farm and the cabin he built is where the Hubbard home is now. Two years later, John Gilmer McGehee had prospected this area and returned to organize a colony of Alabamians and Georgians, about 140 families. These reached Mina in 1835. These were people of high culture and settled in this territory."

Smithville began to attract settlers about the time the town of Mina built up. In 1827, Dr. Thomas Gazeley came and established his headright on the banks of Gazeley Creek and in time, he brought his family and the first slaves to this locality. His slaves built the first house, only one room with walls of cedar logs driven into the ground, and covered with hand-hewn clapboards and a roof of hand-made shingles. Several years later, a William Smith settled, bringing his wife and five sons. He owned a store, bartering and trading with Indians and whites. Settlers came in increasing numbers. Shipp (Shipp's lake is named after him), John Fawcett (Faucett) born in England, came to sell racing horses, but stayed and built a two story brick residence above the river valley in 1845. Having a cupolo and being built on an elevation, it was ideally situated as a look-out for Indians. The warlike Comanches roved the country, making the struggle for an existence a constant terror. General Edward B. Burleson, one of the first white male children born in Bastrop County, lived on the headright across the Colorado, at the south of Alum Creek, and he played a prominent part in the Indian days. In 1835, Captain D. C. Hill settled there. In 1846, the last herd of buffaloes was seen in this territory, and Mr. Fawcett shot one, but found it too poor to eat. In 1837, the first train came from Taylor, the railroad was called the Taylor, Bastrop and Houston. Then a new Smithville was built near the depot and tracks, away from the banks of the river. The railroad was later incorporated into the MK&T system.

The Watterson Community, 11 miles south of Bastrop, had settlers coming into it along with the very earliest, during the exploration and settlement of Texas. Samuel Wolfenbarger and wife came from Tennessee. He was a wagon maker and also farmed. He took a prominent part in the county. Charles Watterson and family came from Tennessee about 1852, his youngest daughter is Mrs. H. J. Eskew. Other early settlers were Johnnie Smith, H. B. Lee, N. W. Eastland, Wash Corbell, Henry and Tom Lentz. Practically all depended on farming and stockraising in this fertile area.

McDade was settled in the early 1840's by planters from the Old South. James McDade, for whom the town was named, arrived before 1860, but as a settlement, it ranks third with Smithville and Bastrop. In the early days it was the leading commercial center of the county. At that time it was known as the Tie City. A stage and freight line was operated between it and Bastrop and Austin; and it was the shipping point for freight and cotton to and from Smithville, Bastrop and Austin between 1871 and 1886.

Red Rock was so named because the first settler, James Brewer, is said to have used a red rock for the building of the chimney of his house. He built it in the early 1850's. A postoffice was granted in 1870 with Ashley Lentz as postmaster.

Elgin had its beginning about 1874, when a small general store, located on a crossroad, had a post office added. It was formerly called Hog Eye, after a favorite song of an old Negro fiddler. Edward Robison Carter and wife came to Bastrop County in 1850 from Virginia; they have descendants now living in Elgin. Thos. O'Connor came in 1882 and was a pioneer builder and mason; many buildings show his handiwork.

Rosanky had settlers in 1854 and Cedar Creek about the same time.

Many Germans came to Bastrop County in 1857, numbering about 1100.

Grassyville was settled by a group direct from Germany in 1856. This community was between Smithville and Paige.

Shiloh was settled in 1860.

Wayside had its beginning in 1860, and many settlers were German. Just around and in Bastrop many Germans lived, in all about 30 families. Dr. Starke was a practicing physician, and there were tailors, shoemakers, gunsmiths, merchants, tanners, cedar bucket makers, brickmasons, bakers, furniture makers, grocers, sawmill operators and a hotel owner (Hoppe).

On Upper Piney, four miles northeast of Bastrop, lived the following families: Balzer, Keil, Baron, Gloeckner, Joahim Duve, attorney; Hanke, Fehr, Bauhoff, Wever, Schuelke, Prause, Schaefer, Laake, Lange, Hoffman. There were also Gruesondorf, contractor and organizer of the first German Methodist Church. These German settlers organized their own schools and supported them.

Bastrop citizens were always progressive and industrious. In the early '40's, Bastrop merchants had their advertisements in Austin newspapers. In the county, many varied industries were developed, including the manufacture of hats, corn mills, gunsmith shop, wood shop, thread factory. There was a Bastrop Mill, Inc. in 1838. Directors were Henry Cocheron, R. S. Redding, S. B. Crott, W. P. Hill, Robert G. Hill. This was a 25 year charter to operate a grist mill, saw, lathe and shingle mill.

There are endless ramifications when one thinks of the economic life of the area. It would take volumes to list the many illustrious pioneers who served in the Texas War of Independence, the Terry Rangers, who were recruited chiefly from Bastrop and Bastrop County, and fought in the War Between the States.

Many men of note have gone out of Bastrop, it having produced a governor, a lieutenant governor, congressmen and many men and women who served notable public careers. Our town and county have a rich heritage.

Stephen F. Austin's Little Colony

Record of 70 of the 100 families that were permitted to settle in and around Bastrop County during this period of settlement.

Richard Andrews, arrived 1827 from Georgia, occupation, farming.

Stephen F. Austin

Jose Manuel Bangs, arrived 1816 from Baltimore, Maryland, occupation, printer (accompanied Xavier Mina).

Leman Barker, arrived 1827, from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Martha Barker, arrived 1835, from North Carolina, widow with a family of two.

Benjamin Barton, arrived 1829, from Alabama.

Elisha Barton, arrived 1830, from Alabama, occupation farmer.

William Barton, arrived 1828, from Alabama, occupation, farmer.

Hiram Beales, arrived 1835, from Pennsylvania, occupation, miller.

James H. Bostick, arrived from Tennessee.

Benjamin Bowles, arrived 1827, from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

John W. Bunton, arrived 1835, from Tennessee, occupation, lawyer.

Edward Burleson, arrived 1830, from Tennessee, occupation, farmer.

James Burleson, arrived 1831, from Tennessee, occupation, farmer.

Johnathan Burleson, arrived 1832.

Isaac Castner, arrived 1832, from Alabama.

Thomas Christian, arrived 1832, from Illinois.

Sarah Cottle, arrived 1831, widow and family.

Sylvanus Cottle, arrived 1835.

John C. Cunningham, arrived 1839 from Ohio, occupation, farmer.

L. C. Cunningham, from Tennessee, occupation, lawyer.

Elijah Curtis, arrived 1823 from Alabama, occupation, farmer.

Thomas De Crow, arrived 1831, from Maine, occupation, farmer.

James Doyle, arrived 1835, from Ireland, bricklayer.

Soloman Duty, arrived 1824, from Louisiana.

Charles Edwards, arrived 1829, from New York, occupation, farmer.

Atanacia Garcia, arrived 1835, from Mexico.

Thomas J. Gazeley, arrived 1828, from Ohio, occupation, physician.

Andrew Graham, arrived 1832, from Tennessee.

F. W. Grassmeyer, arrived 1831, from Germany, occupation, merchant.

Edward Gritten, arrived 1835 from England.

James Haggard, arrived 1835, from Tennessee, occupation, farmer.

Isaac Harris, from Trinity.

Elijah Highsmith, arrived 1828, from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Perry B. Isles, arrived 1830, from Kentucky, occupation, farmer.

Edward Jenkins, arrived 1829, from Alabama, occupation, farmer.

James Knight arrived 1822.

Richard Lafrence, arrived 1831, from Philadelphia, occupation, farmer.

Weldon Lightfoot, arrived 1831.

Addison Litton arrived 1835, from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Lewis Lomis, arrived 1831, from New York.

Thomas H. Mays, arrived 1830, from Tennessee, occupation, farmer.

Ruthie Mackey, arrived 1831, from Alabama, with seven children of a tender age.

William Medford, arrived 1832, from Illinois, occupation, farmer.

Samuel Millet, arrived 1831, from Maine.

Azeriah G. Moore, arrived 1835, from District Columbus, occupation, carpenter.

Jonathan D. Morris, arrived 1835 from North Carolina, occupation, farmer.

Jose A. Navarro, from San Fernando de Bexar.

Benjamin Osborne, arrived 1826 from Mississippi.

Joseph Rogers, arrived 1831 from Tennessee, occupation, farmer.

Moses Rosseau, arrived 1828 from Alabama, occupation, farmer.

Samuel Sawyer, arrived 1831 from New York, occupation, merchant.

Charles S. Smith, from New York.

Elizabeth Standifer, 1829 from Alabama, occupation, farmer and widow.

James Standifer, arrived 1829 from Alabama, occupation, farmer and son of Elizabeth.

John Steward, arrived 1823, age 16, occupation, farmer.

James Seward, from Alabama, age 14, occupation, farmer.

James Stuart, arrived 1835 from Ohio, occupation, blacksmith.

Benjamin Tanille, arrived 1835 from Kentucky.

Thomas Thompson, arrived 1825 from Arkansas, occupation, farmer.

James Wadlington, United States north in 1832.

John B. Walters, arrived 1825 from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Martin Wells, arrived 1830 from Alabama, occupation, farmer.

W. C. White, arrived 1822.

George W. Whiteside, arrived 1832, age 8 years.

Josiah Wilbarger, arrived 1827 from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Samuel M. Williams, arrived 1822.

Leander Woods, arrived 1824 from Missouri, occupation, farmer.

Sayers, Garwood And Batts Early Bastrop Citizens

By ALFRED E. MENN

He was born in Mississippi in 1841, and he came to Texas in 1851.

Dr. David Sayers decided to move to Bastrop County.

His son, Joseph D. Sayers, attended famous Bastrop Military Institute. Before he reached the age of 21, the Civil War broke out. He wasn't drafted into the army, he went out and volunteered. A year after the war ended, Joseph D. Sayers was admitted to the bar.

Later, his law partner was none other than the Hon. George W. Jones. They occupied an upstairs office on Main Street in downtown Bastrop. Their law practice prospered beyond their fondest dreams.

Both Sayers and Jones were politically inclined. Sayers, finally, was elected Governor of Texas. His beautiful, two-story brick residence is still standing in downtown Austin.

H. M. Garwood was a native of Bastrop, where he was born in 1864.

His father, C. B. Garwood, was one of the leading businessmen of early-day Bastrop.

After he was graduated from The University of the South, at Sewanee, Tennessee, in 1883, he studied law under the guidance of Joseph D. Sayers. He was admitted to the bar in 1885. When he was elected to the Legislature, he became one of its youngest members.

Garwood went over to Bryan, Texas, wooed and won the hand of Miss Hattie Page.

In 1890, the same year in which he was married, he was elected to the Senate of the 22nd Legislature.

A young man used to room at one of the most famous old mansions in Austin. The Raymond mansion was located just north of the campus of the University of Texas.

R. L. Batts was one of the boarders. Later in life, when he became a successful lawyer, Batts built a stucco mansion opposite to the old Raymond mansion. When he became fabulously successful, Batts built one of the most beautiful residences in the Enfield section of Austin.

R. L. Batts was born in Bastrop, Texas, in 1864, a sister of the late Mrs. H. N. Bell, Sr.

He was once employed as cashier and bookkeeper for the mercantile firm of Garwood and Higgins.

He was graduated from the University of Texas in 1886. He and H. M. Garwood became law partners in 1887.

R. L. Batts was married to Miss Harriet Boak in 1889.

The Spirit That Walked At Hornsby's Bend

By Eva Hill LeSueur Karling

I shall here recall the story
Of a thing of wondrous mystery,
Handed down throughout a century,
And recorded in our history.

In a fertile Texas valley
Where the hills of Travis rise,
Calm and tranquil in their dreaming,
Beneath blue southern skies;

Still is standing—gnarled and olden,
With its hoary boughs upreared,
An oak, beneath whose branches
A spirit once appeared.

Weird and strange as any fiction,
Is the story I relate;
Proving there is Power Supernal
That o'er rules and guards our fate.

It was in the month of August,
In eighteen and thirty-three;
How I thrilled with fear and wonder,
When Grandfather told it to me.

Texas then was fair as Eden,
But for this dark, ghastly stain—
Roving bands of savage Indians
Lurked and skulked on hill and plain.

Fortified in strong log cabins
Dwelt courageous pioneers;
Linking with the fate of Texas
All the hope of their careers.

On this balmy summer morning,
While the sun kissed vale and hill,
Five men rode in the valley,
Paused for rest beside a rill.

While their steeds were calmly grazing,
They reclined beneath the trees;
Not a thought of danger threatening
Came to mar their sense of ease.

Suddenly, their frantic horses
Plunged and reared in frenzied fear!
Well their masters knew the meaning—
They had scented Indians near!

Cruel were the flinted arrows
That were rained upon them there;
Whoops, blood-curdling, shrieks of triumph,
As of demons, rent the air!

Dashing for their maddened horses,
Strother fell, his heart pierced through,
Then another vengeful arrow
Pierced the heart of Christian, too.

Shielded by a fringe of bushes
And the stream's projecting bank,
Standifer and Haynie mounted,
But Wilbarger, stricken, sank.

Paralyzed by ruthless arrow,
His companions saw him lie;
And they fled, while countless warriors
Raised victorious battle-cry.

But he was not dead, and conscious
He lay helpless, agonized,
While they took the gruesome trophy
Which their barbarous custom prized.

Then with fiendish yells, they left him,
Going their triumphant way;
While with mangled, quivering body,
Passed for him that dreadful day.

Racked with thirst, at last he roused him,
Drew his weak and tortured frame
Over stones, a weary distance,
To where cooling waters came.

Then the quiet night descended,
With its mystery and calm;
Myriad stars looked down upon him,
And his spirit felt their balm.

Then a radiance shown about him—
And distinct and clear in tone
A familiar voice sounded—
One his youth had loved and known.

And he saw his sister, Margaret,
Gliding to him from the plain;
And she paused and said, "My brother,
You are weak and racked with pain.

"Wait, and I will send you succor
Ere the coming day shall close."
Then so quietly she glided
Where a distant hill arose.

Vanishing in the direction
Of the Hornsby's—on she went—
And his fainting spirit rallied,
Knowing rescue would be sent.

(A strange and weird coincident
Is the fact that on that date,
His beloved sister, Margaret,
Had died in a distant state!

(Many months passed before he knew
She so far away had died
On the very day he had seen
And heard her at his side.)

To the home of Reuben Hornsby
The two who escaped had fled,
There telling their tragic story
Of companions scalped and dead.

Sad were the hearts in that cabin
As they knelt for their evening's prayer,
And heavy the gloom enshrouding
Each one in its troubled air.

When sleep had at last enfolded
The home in its mystic spell,
A vision came to Mrs. Hornsby—
On her listening spirit fell.

She saw with a wondrous clearness,
Pecan Spring and the tree near by,
And Wilbarger lying, breathing,
With wakeful and conscious eye!

Three times did she sleep and dream it,
Through that long, uncanny night,
Till her heart was a-throb with pity
For her neighbor's tragic plight!

Rousing the household from slumber,
She related her visions, plain;
They said, "He is dead! You but dreamed it!"
But she pleaded again and again,

And cried, "He lives! I have seen him!
By the tree near the spring he lies!
Oh, hasten and go to his rescue,
Before from weakness he dies!"

And her words were so strangely earnest,
They hearkened at length to her plea;
And gathering a band of neighbors,
Rode where she said he would be.

They found him, bleeding and wounded,
But waiting with trusting faith
For their coming; and he told them
Of his sister's visioned wraith!

Who shall say how came the message,
In such clear, familiar tone?
Did her soul go out—and seeking—
To their spirits make it known?

And how came the knowledge to her,
As she in her coffin lay—
That her brother was sorely wounded
Seven hundred miles away?

And the woman who had the visions,
And would not be answered nay—
How were they pictured in her dreams?
Whoever can answer—say!

But never a doubt nor question
In the minds of men arose,
Who knew Wilbarger then and till
Years later, came life's close.

And Mrs. Hornsby who sent him rescue,
Oft said, in those far-off days,
"Our God is a God of mystery,
And moves in marvelous ways!"

The story is still related
By descendants in reverent awe,
Of that strange night and the spirit
Which their ancestors heard and saw.

Today the old spring still gushes,
And flows in a trickling rill,
And the old oak bends and listens,
Brooding o'er the memory still;

And the blue hills stand a-dreaming
Of that strange and mystic sight,
And the pensive quiet prairie,
And the Spirit that walked that night!

O. B. Wolf First Legion Commander In Bastrop

The Clifford Marshall Post No. 243 was the first American Legion Post organized in Bastrop. This Post was organized on July 27, 1920, with the late O. B. Wolf as commander. J. S. Jones was vice-commander and G. P. Elzner, adjutant.

Charter members were J. S. Jones, H. S. Jenkins, K. R. Higgins, O. B. Wolf, G. P. Elzner, T. C. Chalmers, W. B. Burleson, Claude Johnson, Dale Turner, E. F. Percy, H. M. Johnson, Joe G. Leath, C. E. Turner, W. M. Schilling, S. H. Tummins.

Bower Crider was the first commander of the James H. Perkins Post American Legion organized March 7, 1946.

Other officers were A. L. DeGlandon, first vice commander; Oren Eskew, second vice commander; Clyde Reynolds, adjutant; R. E. Jenkins, finance officer; Rev. John T. Allen, Chaplain; Dewey Turner, sergeant-at-arms and Dr. A. C. Smith, historian. Over 100 charter members were listed.

THE NATIVE INDIANS OF BASTROP COUNTY

(Given by Mrs. W. E. Maynard at The Historical Society in January, 1955.)

The Tonkawa tribe of Indians lived along the Colorado River. When we think of Indians in this area, we generally recall the Comanches. However, the Comanches lived near El Paso and came to this area on raids and to kill game. They brought their families with them so that when they killed the game the women of the tribe could preserve it.

The Tonkawa Indians were friendly toward the white settlers as they thought the whites could help them defend themselves against the Comanches, who were considered the fiercest tribe among the Indians.

The Old San Antonio Road began at San Juan Bautista and ended at Nacogdoches. The road crossed the Colorado River at Bastrop, which made Bastrop a very important trading post, for it was the half way mark between San Juan Bautista and Nacogdoches. Settlers would come along the Old San Antonio Road, spend the night at Bastrop and go on from there. The La Bahia Road junctured with the Old San Antonio Road somewhere near the Brazos River, therefore, the Old San Antonio Road could be called the La Bahia Road.

(This information was taken from the "Handbook of Texas", "Handbook of American Indians", and "Texas Journal of Science", V. 5, No. 3, p. 280, in Barker Texas History Center, Austin, Texas.)

It has not been possible to determine with confidence the range and headquarters of the Tonkawas before the decade between 1770-1780 when the reports become full and satisfactory. At this time their customary range was between the middle and upper Trinity on the Northeast and the San Gabriel and Colorado on the Southwest, rather above than below San Antonio. Their favorite headquarters were about halfway between Waco and the Trinity Crossing of the Old San Antonio Road near an eminence known to the natives as the Turtle. Since they first became known, the Tonkawas had perhaps drifted Southward, though this is not certain.

The Tonkawas bore a bad reputation with both the Indians and whites, however, they were uniformly at peace with the Americans.

The historian, Dr. Rivage, in 1719, assigned them the characteristic of being warlike wanderers, planting few or no crops, living on game, and following the buffalo long distances. When hard pressed, they could eat food usually considered revolting. Their general reputation as cannibals is borne out by the concurrent tradition and history, by their destination in the sign language and by the names applied to them by other tribes.

The historian, Mezieres, says of them that they were despised by other tribes as vagabonds, ill natured, a characteristic frequently given them in later times. They lived in scattered villages of skin tepees which they moved according to caprice of the chiefs or the demand of the chase. In the 18th century they were fine horsemen and had good animals. Their offensive weapons then were firearms, bows, arrows and the spear; their defensive arms were the leather jacket, shield cap or helmet, on which they wore horns and gaudy plumage. Mezieres gives these uses that they made of the buffalo, besides their meat. The brains were used to soften skins, the horns for spoons and drinking cups, the shoulder blades to dig up the ground, the tendons for thread and bow strings, the hoofs to glue the arrowfeathering. From the tail-hair they made ropes and girths, from the wool, belts and various ornaments. The hide furnished saddle and bridle, tether ropes, shields, tents, skirts, foot wear, and blankets. They also hunted the deer and when the Comanches cut them off from the buffalo, their dependence on this animal increased. A trader informed historian Sibley in 1805 that he had obtained as many as 5000 deer hides from the Tonkawas.

In 1770, the Spaniards adopted a new approach to the Tonkawas; they tried to win their good will by friendly visits and by sending them authorized traders with supplies and by persuasion and threats to withdraw, the traders tried to force them to abandon their vagabond life and settle in fixed villages. Failure to successfully effect these policies was charged to the bad influence of the noted Tonkawa chief of the day, El Mocha. He was an Apache by birth, who had been captured and adopted by the Tonkawas. He got his name because during one of his exploits against the Osage, he lost his right ear and El Mocha means the maimed or cropped.

By his prowess in war and his eloquence in council, he raised himself to a place of influence. An epidemic occurred in 1777-78, removed his rivals and left him chief. The Spaniards had bribed the members of this council to assassinate him, but since death overtook them before they could perform the deed, El Mocha was in full control. The Spaniards finally succeeded by intrigue in

having him murdered in the plaza at Bahia (Goliad) in 1784. After El Mocho's death, the new Tonkawa chief succeeded in establishing a permanent village on the Navasota River. This lasted, however, for only ten years. Then they became wanderers again and were alternately at war and peace with the Spaniards.

The next we hear of them being permanently settled was by the U. S. Government in 1855, they together with the Caddo, Kichai, Waco, Towakoni and Penateka Comanche were upon two small reservations on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, Texas. The Texans objected to this violently and the Indians were removed in 1857 to Washita River, Oklahoma. The Tonkawas being temporarily camped about the mouth of Tonkawa Creek above the present Anadarko. The other tribes, Delaware, Shawnees and Caddos, who hated the Tonkawas because they were cannibalistic and because they served the government as scouts against the more western tribes, used the excuse that the Tonkawas were in alliance with the Confederacy and in 1862, they attacked the camp of the Tonkawas at Andarko and massacred all but a remnant of the tribe. The miserable survivors were finally gathered in by the U. S. Government at Ft. Griffin, Texas. In 1884 all that were left, 92, including a few Lipans were removed to their present location near Ponca, Oklahoma. In 1908, they numbered 48 including several intermarried Lipans.

("Handbook of American Indians" by Hodge).

Tonkawa was the tribal name of an Indian Confederacy occupying Central and South Central Texas in the 18th and 19th centuries. The linguistic family included tribes such as the Yojuane, Mayeye, Ervipame, Sava and Tojo. The term Tonkawa is itself a foreign word. It is derived from the Waco, Tonkawa ya, (they all stay together). The Tonkawas call themselves Tickawatic, (those most like humans). The Tonkawas were extremely mobile, they lived in skin tents and followed the bison. They also hunted deer, antelope and many similar animals. Wild roots, berries and fruit supplied vegetable food. There is no evidence of agriculture. In the 18th century their range was between the Trinity and the Colorado Rivers, for the most part, north of the Old San Antonio Road. Much has been said in early Spanish documents of the warlike nature of the Tonkawas, their alleged cannibalism, their treachery, thievery and generally unsavory reputation among other Indians. Warfare, however, was no more characteristic of the Tonkawas than of other Indian tribes and seems to have been similar to plains warfare in character.

Tonkawa, "cannibalism" upon investigation, proved to be only the ritual of eating bits of flesh from bodies of slain enemies, a practice not unusual to aboriginal America and certainly not to be confused with the use of human flesh for food. To Spanish governors and missionaries of the 18th century any Indian who refused to remain in missions and subject themselves to overlordship of the Spaniards were regarded as innately evil.

("The Handbook of Texas", Walter Prescott Webb, editor-in-chief.)

"The Texas Journal of Science" places the Tonkawa in the 1820's as being an annoyance to the American settlers on the lower Colorado and Brazos Rivers. The settlers had assembled all of the Tonkawas in the vicinity at a place on the Colorado River preparatory to moving them out of the white settlement. At this point, a Lipan Apache had agreed to take charge of the Tonkawas. The Lipans reportedly moved them to an area between the upper Nueces and Rio Grande. The Tonkawas remained there a few years, then drifted back to the coast.

The men wore only breech cloths, the women wore only skirts. Women parted their hair in the middle, sometimes long, sometimes short. Paint was applied in black stripes to the mouth and nose and back. On each breast black stripes were painted in concentric circles extending from the nipple back to the base. Jewelry was earrings and elaborate shell necklaces.

Weapons were the bow and arrow, the arrow shafts made of dogwood. They also had a spear and a lance.

The Tonkawa man and his parents-in-law had a strong avoidance pattern; they were to cover their faces in each others' presence. A man must not speak to his wife's mother or even look at her. Milder rules applied to a girl and her father-in-law.

The Tonkawas had shamans, but nothing was known of their duties beyond the fact that they were engaged in curing.

A description of their scalp dance—in one of these the warriors dressed in their breech cloths and decorated with warpaint formed a circle around the scalp. This had been covered with paint and held up on a lance by a woman. Each man had an instrument and they danced around with a drum.

("Texas Journal of Science", T. N. Campbell, editor.)

Excerpts of general interest from "The Evolution of a State" by Noah Smithwick:

The settlers gradually regained confidence and by this time were pretty much all back in their homes. The Indians were committing many out-

rages, making it again necessary to go garrison the frontier. As neither Captain Tomlinson nor his lieutenants reported for duty, Colonel Coleman was instructed to proceed up on Walnut Creek, six miles below Austin, and build the Coleman fort, consisting of a cluster of log cabins enclosed with a heavy stockade. All of the Tomlinson rangers were ordered to report to Coleman, their term of enlistment (one year) not having expired. Bastrop County suffered more than any from Indians during the year 1836 than for any other year of its history. I could mention numbers of its best men who were killed during that time. The return of the rangers, however, checked hostile incursions for a time, and people began to scatter out from forts, in which they had been compelled to take refuge, and settle down to the business of preparing for the next season's crops, few of them having made anything that year.

Mechanics were rather scarce in the frontier settlements, and there was so much need of blacksmith work that I did not stop at the fort all the time, but worked in the settlements. It was while thus employed that I received an invitation down to old Sammie Craft's below Bastrop, the occasion being the marriage of his step-daughter, Candice Thompson, to David Holderman, Bastrop's principal merchant. Mr. Craft had a more commodious house than was ordinarily found in that section, having also a good "plank" floor, a luxury that most of the settlers were forced to forego. These advantages taken with the genial hospitality of the family, insured a full attendance at a social gathering within its walls. This being an extraordinary occasion, all the elite in the country round were invited, and few regrets were sent. I being a pretty fair Arkansas fiddler, had the entree of all social functions, where dancing was a feature. The bride needed not the aid of artificial lights to make her appear lovely, therefore the marriage ceremony was performed in broad daylight. I can't tell you just how the bride was dressed. The bridegroom, being a merchant, had on "store clothes", but that kind of apparel was not de rigueur. There were many homespun suits and the old reliable buckskin was also in evidence. Among the ladies, the rustle of silks was not wanting, if the styles were somewhat varied according to the period at which the wearer migrated thither.

The writer was resplendent in a brand new buckskin suit, consisting of hunting shirt, pantaloons and moccasins, all elaborately fringed. It was on this occasion that I first met the lady who afterwards became my wife, and I used to tell her that it was my picturesque attire that won me her favor.

There was neither gas nor kerosene to light the dancing room, but the tallow candles beamed on the assembly from highly polished tall brass candlesticks, such as now are carefully treasured as heirlooms by the descendants of old families.

Among the guests was the Rev. Hugh M. Childers, who, though a Methodist minister, was also an expert with a violin, and even "tripped the light fantastic". For an all around useful man, he had few equals, always bearing his full share of anything that came along, from a prayer meeting to an Indian fight. A preacher who could only talk found himself out of a job in those parts.

Dr. Fentress also wielded the bow and, between us three, we kept the dance going all night. We were not versed in the giddy measures of the dances in vogue nowadays, but,

"Hornpipes, strathspeys, jigs and reels

Put life and mettle in our heels!"

There were a couple of strangers present who attracted a good deal of attention—an elderly man, with a professional handle to his name, and his son, a lad of twenty or thereabouts. They had money for which they were seeking investment. Both of them were well dressed, sporting gold watches and shirt studs, and the young man was cutting a wide swath among the girls, laying us buckskin boys quite in the shade. But by and by old Aunt Celie, a mulatto woman who was looking through the open door, beckoned to her young mistress, Miss Harriet Craft, and taking her aside, said:

"Miss Ha'it, wat you in dar dancing wid dat niggah fo?"

"Hush, Aunt Celie; that isn't a nigger," said Miss Craft.

"He is niggah, Miss Ha'it, he jus' as much niggah as I is. Look at his ha' and his eyes," urged the indignant old woman.

Commanding Aunt Celie to hold her peace, Miss Harriet returned to her guests, but the furtive glances bestowed upon the young stranger betrayed the doubt Aunt Celie's warning had awakened. Later developments proved the keenness of the old woman's perception. She was not easily deceived on the color line. Our host spared no pains to make the time pass pleasantly, himself going through the evolutions of a hornpipe to show us clumsy young fellows how they danced in his youth.

There was a bountiful feast, the table remaining spread and the coffee pot kept boiling all night, those who chose repairing to the dining room for refreshments at any time.

We literally "danced all night to broad day light

and went home with the girls in the morning," the unsafe condition of the country rendering such escort absolutely indispensable. We didn't neglect to take our rifles along, either.

We didn't always have boards to dance on. Sometimes there were puncheons (split timbers) and sometimes only ground, but we enjoyed any respite from the wearing cares that beset us, and overlooked all minor discomforts.

My term of enlistment expiring about the beginning of 1837, I substituted for a man who had a family, to whom he was desirous to return and again took up my quarters in the fort. The weather was cold and wet and our men suffered for clothing. Buckskin was sufficient while the weather remained dry; but, a story my wife used to tell on Jimmie Manning will best illustrate the objection to which buckskin was open as a wet weather garment. Jimmie, who had not then been long in the country, was out with a surveying party when there came up a drenching rain, and before they could reach shelter, the buckskin breeches of the party were thoroughly saturated. The widow Blakey's house opened its hospitable doors to receive the dripping, shivering surveyors. Mrs. Blakey had two grown up daughters and it could generally be depended on to find one or more visiting young ladies there, making it a favorite stopping place at all times, especially on a rainy day.

The hero of the story being unacquainted with the vagaries of buckskin, on alighting from his horse and finding his feet enveloped in the slimy folds of his pantaloons, which had lengthened a foot or so and become as unmanageable as a jelly fish, took out his knife and cut off the extra length. Men didn't keep extra suits of clothing in those days, and as there were no dry garments to offer the party, there was a rousing fire built in the great open fire place and the boys drew up in front of it to dry their clothing. When the fire began to make its influence felt, Jimmie's breeches began a retrograde movement, perceiving which he reached down and stretched them out again to the ill-concealed amusement of the girls, who had witnessed the amputation. But the pantaloons were on the retreat, and by the time the buckskin reached its normal condition, it had put a safe distance between them and the tops of his shoes. Jimmie didn't wait for the rain to stop, but struck out for Bastrop to procure clothing of a more stable character.

The government bought a lot of United States army clothing, consisting of pantaloons and runabouts, which were sent up to Coleman for the rangers. As it was all rather under size, we agreed to distribute it by lots, an arrangement which was productive of some laughable results.

Isaac Casner, who tipped the beam at 200, got a suit that would have been a snug fit for a man of 140. As the old fellow couldn't begin to get into them, he took them on his arm and went around among the boys trying to effect an exchange. We all liked Uncle Isaac and the largest suits in the lot were brought out. He tried them one after another, but like the "contraband's song", "they didn't go half way round", and but for the ingenuity of Mrs. Casner, the old man's suit would have been a total loss. Clothiers were scarce, though, so Mrs. Casner ripped open the outside seams of the pantaloons and set in stripes to extend them to the necessary dimensions, also setting a stripe down each sleeve and in the center of the jacket, with a false front to expand it over his aldermanic proportions. A stranger would have taken him for commanding officer on account of his stripes.

Wolfenbarger, who would have measured six feet barefooted, got a suit of which the bottoms of the pantaloons struck him about half way to his knees, the jacket failing to connect with them by full six inches, and his arms protruding a foot beyond the end of the sleeves. He presented a ludicrous appearance as, amid shouts of laughter, he stalked up and down like an animated scarecrow, trying to negotiate a trade. Failing that, he pieced them out with strips of blanket and was quite as comfortable as the rest of us.

The Indians were not preying in our beat, probably because they found better game elsewhere. In the meantime Coleman had been relieved of command and Captain Andrews was appointed.

(Chapter XI, pp. 153-159.)

Early in the summer of 1837, a band of Comanches, consisting of two chiefs, — Quinaseico (eagle) and Puestia —, and six warriors, came to the fort waving a white flag. They had not yet learned to speak English, but all Texas Indians understood more or less Spanish. I, being the most expert in the use of the latter language, went out, though not alone by several, to ascertain their business.

They stated that their tribe was desirous of entering into a treaty with the whites, and to that end requested that a commissioner be sent out to their camp to talk the matter over with their head men. I thereupon conducted them into the fort where they laid their request before Captain Andrews.

The white people, weary of the perpetual warfare which compelled them to live in forts and make a subsistence as best they might, hailed

the proposition for a treaty with delight, and would have been willing to purchase even a cessation of hostilities at almost any price; but the Indians were so treacherous that the office of commissioner was not one to be coveted.

For reasons above stated, the chiefs selected me to undertake the business, pledging themselves that no harm should befall me. Knowing that there is a degree of honor even among Indians touching those who voluntarily become their guests, I yielded to the stress of circumstances and agreed to accompany them back to their camp, only about thirty miles distant, on Brushy Creek.

One man was really safer than several, as the Indians would naturally have been suspicious of conversation they could not understand, and if treachery were intended numbers would not avail against it.

I bade adieu to my comrades, many of whom thought it would be the last time they would see me, and, putting my life into hands red with the blood of my race, proceeded to the camp where old Muguara, the head chief, received me with every mark of friendship, conducting me to his lodge, where I was made the recipient of every attention known to their code of hospitality. The camp was not nearly so large as I had expected, there being only about fifty lodges and not over one hundred warriors. There must have been more of the tribe somewhere, as they could, on occasion, muster a much larger force. They were exceedingly chary of information regarding their strength, however. There were six prisoners in camp; one white woman and two white boys, and one Mexican woman and two Mexican boys. The Mexican woman was the only one of the lot that evinced any desire to return to her people. She was not permitted to talk to me in private and policy prevented her giving vent to her feelings in the presence of her captors. After I had been some time among them, they relaxed their espionage somewhat, and she managed to tell me that she was very homesick, having been captured after she was grown. The poor woman cried bitterly over her situation, she having been appropriated by one of the bucks. The white woman said she was very small when she was taken, and remembered nothing of the circumstances. She had an Indian husband and several children.

None of the boys remembered anything of their homes. One of the white boys, a youth of eighteen or thereabouts, I recognized as a prisoner we had twice recaptured, once at Gonzales and again at Victoria. Each time he stayed a few days, apparently quite satisfied with his surroundings, but, when he got a good chance, decamped, taking several of the best horses along.

The other white child was a bright little fellow, five or six years old. Loath to leave him to grow up a savage, I tried to buy him, offering a fine horse in exchange, but the squaw who had adopted him gathered him close to her bosom with every show of affection. "No," said she, "he is mine; my own child." That was plainly a falsehood, but the love she manifested toward the hapless boy was some palliation therefor.

The Indians would give no information about any of their captives except one little Waco, which Quinaseico had adopted, and I should not have known he was a Waco but that the old chief himself told me. Observing that the other members of the family were grown up, I asked the old man if that little boy was his child.

"Yes," said he, taking the child in his arms, "mine now." He then told me that during the war between the Wacos and Comanches, the latter surprised an encampment of the enemy and killed all the occupants except that one little child. Said he: "After the fight was over, I went into a lodge and found this boy, about two years old, sitting beside its dead mother crying; and my heart was sorry for him, and I took him up in my arms and brought him home to my lodge and my wife took him to her bosom, and fed him, and he is mine now." And the little orphan Waco, as well as the little white boy, was petted by the whole tribe.

"Smithwick" being too much of a tongue twister for the average Comanche, old Muguara called the chiefs together in a council, when it was decided to bestow upon me the name of an illustrious chief, who had previously departed for the happy hunting ground.

Old Muguara then communicated the decision to me and in a voice that might have been heard a mile proclaimed to all the camp that the white brother's name was henceforth "Juaqua". The name was taken up and repeated by every separate member of the tribe, the men pronouncing it with loud jocularly, the women shyly lisping it half under breath, and the children, with an expression that reminded me of nothing in the world so much as the little bark or squeak of the prairie dog as he disappears into his burrough at the approach of an enemy.

"Juaqua!" The name clung to me years after. I use the Spanish alphabet in spelling these Indian names, it seeming better adapted to the soft sound of the Comanche tongue. I tried to get some knowledge of the latter language, succeeding fairly well with the nouns and adjectives, but when it came to the conjugation of the Co-

manche verb, I gave it up.

The Indians were very skeptical about the utility of writing but when they told me the names of different objects and saw me write them down and afterwards refer to them, giving the names correctly, they concluded it was "buena".

(Chapter XII, pp. 172-176.)

I had several times conducted parties of Comanches into Bastrop which was then the outside town, where the citizens, anxious to conciliate them, made them many presents, both useful and ornamental. On one memorable occasion Mother Muguara—the old chief and his head wife always called me "son"—accompanied us. I escorted her into Palmer & Kinney's store and was assisting her in bartering her buffalo robes and buckskins for calico and tobacco, when in came a couple of young ladies of my acquaintance. Pleased to meet them, especially one of them, I deserted Mother Muguara and went over to the majority. The old woman eyed the "paleface squaws" critically and said in Spanish:

"Juaqua, are both these your wives?"

Amused at the perfect sincerity of the question, I answered, laughingly, "no."

"Then," persisted she, "which one is?"

I assured her that neither of them sustained that relation to me.

"Och," shaking her finger in my face, "you lie."

At this I laughed so heartily that my friends were devoured with curiosity to know what was being said of them, surmising that the conversation related to themselves. Not being selfishly inclined, I shared the joke with them. Fortunately Dame Muguara was not versed in the language of the female blush, otherwise I fear the glow that suffused the face of one of our fair auditors would have hopelessly compromised my character for veracity in her estimation. Had the astute dame interrogated me on the subject later, I would have proudly vindicated myself from her imputation.

At length, after many long talks with the wise men of the tribe, I induced five of the chiefs to go with me down to Houston, then the seat of government, Palmer accompanying us to get his pay for goods advanced to the Indians.

On our way down we crossed the Brazos River at the sight of the old San Felipe de Austin. I left my curse on the town when its ayuntamiento banished me, and it was therefore with grim satisfaction that I contemplated the heaps of ashes that marked the historic spot; a few isolated cabins only having escaped the torch applied by Mosely Baker to prevent its stores falling into the hands of the Mexicans in '36. Its illustrious founder, who might have instilled the phoenix spirit into the ashes, himself had returned to dust. Later I met the man who was the leader in the movement against me. Said he:

"I was the best friend you had; if I hadn't got you away from there, some of those fellows would have killed you."

Perhaps he was right.

President Houston, having spent many years among the Cherokees, was fully alive to the situation, sympathizing with the native races, as I had also learned to do, for the wrongs that had been done them from the time Columbus, totally ignoring their inherent rights, took possession of the western hemisphere in the name of Spain, and knowing that he was powerless to prevent it, that in spite of treaties, the conflict must go on till the Indian was exterminated or forced into exile. When I explained the Indians' desire for a definite line of division between them and the whites, the president sadly shook his head. Said he:

"If I could build a wall from the Red River to the Rio Grande, so high that no Indian would scale it, the white people would go crazy trying to devise means to get beyond it." And I knew that he was correct.

We neglected no opportunity to impress our guests with the prowess of the pale face, showing them through our armory and ostentatiously exhibiting our cannon. There was a steamboat lying at the wharf in which the savages were greatly interested, it being the first they had ever seen. We conducted them on board and were showing them over it when the whistle blew, and thinking there was some trick being played on them, they scuttled for shore. I explained the significance of the whistle, thus reassuring them.

President Houston told me to tell them we had hundreds of steamboats and Americans to make them run on land just as easily as on water, a statement which the Indians accepted with a large pinch of salt.

We finally fixed up a treaty, the provisions of which I do not remember, nor is it essential since they were never complied with by either party. One article of the treaty stipulated that a trading post should be established on Brushy at the site of the old Tumlinson block house, where the Indians could come and get supplies. They were fast becoming civilized in that respect, bartering buffalo robes and buckskins for blankets and clothing.

V. R. Palmer agreed to take charge of the post.

The Indians also requested that a resident commissioner be appointed, and, as I had won their confidence, they wanted to have me return and take up my permanent abode with them. The president, too, was anxious to have me accept the office, but I had had enough of it; in fact, had formed far different plans for the future, in which another's interests were bound up, so I declined to become a Comanche by adoption, recommending A. P. Miles for the position.

Having collected all the gifts they could conveniently carry, the Indians set out on their return. At Bastrop I parted company with them. There were horses stolen before they got out of the settlements, and the theft was laid to their charge, whether justly or not, I can't say.

Open hostilities ceased for a time, however, and gave the settlers a chance to quarrel among themselves. Dissensions arose, and, lulled by the fancied security, the more venturesome spirits pushed further out, exciting anew the distrust of the Indians. Then, when the time in which the trading post was to have been established passed, and they came in with their skins to trade and found no trading house, they came to call on me to know why the treaty had not been complied with. As there was no plausible excuse for the failure, they held me responsible, saying I had lied to them, which of course, destroyed any influence I might have previously exercised over them, and the irrepressible conflict recommenced with redoubled vigor. Thus my honest endeavor to bring about an adjustment of difficulties was worse than thrown away, for my enemies asserted that because of the sympathy I had conceived for the Indians, I was disposed to screen them, but I had illustrious company, for there were like charges preferred against both General Houston and General Burleson, and in such company, I am content to let my name go down to posterity. We were crucified between thieves, the usual fate of mediators. I have often thought that I might have been able to exert a pacific influence over the Comanches, had I done as they entreated me to do; but, aside from my aversion to their mode of life, I did not feel justified in ignoring the rights of her who had consented to share my lot in life. And perhaps had the trading post been established according to contract, I might have still had influence with them. They would probably have seized on the first pretext, however, to rob the trader. Jack Palmer had had a little experience with the Comanches which may have caused him to hesitate about opening a trading post. He came out to the camp during my sojourn there, bringing with him, as presents to old Muguara, a fine military cloak and plumed cocked hat, expecting, of course, a present in return. But old Muguara didn't seem to value his gift so highly as Palmer thought he should, and only tendered one old mule in return. That didn't suit Jack, and, seeing a large fine mule in the caballado, he asked to be allowed to take that. "O Yes," said old Muguara. Now it so happened that that particular mule was the property of Madame Muguara and by her used to move her camp equipage. I accompanied Palmer on his return, we camping one night on the way. The next morning Jack's mule was gone and no trace of it could be found. We went back to the camp, but it was not there. After a few days absence, I returned to camp and there was the mule. "It got away and came back," old Muguara said.

So far as I know there were no overt acts committed on the Texans by the Comanches during my stay with them, but they were too restless to remain long in inactivity, so they got up an excursion, or incursion rather, over into Mexico to "get" horses, they said. They made elaborate preparations for the expedition, holding councils and war dances several nights before they set out. As they had not returned when I left the camp, I never knew what success they had, but if the Mexicans along the border had anything the Indians wanted they doubtless got it. They facetiously spoke of the Mexican rancheros as their "majadomas".

I still retain some vivid recollections of the kindness and friendship evinced toward me by the Comanches especially the old chiefs, while I was with them. What their course toward me would have been had I met them some other way, I do not know. I always thought that if I had fallen into their hands by accident they would have remembered "Wahqua".

My second term of enlistment having expired, I did not immediately return to the fort, but opened a shop in Bastrop. Captain Andrews had retired from command during my absence and Captain Eastland succeeded him. Of all the men with whom I have been associated, none stood higher in my regard than Michael Andrews. In company with two brothers, Richards and Reddin, he came to the colonies at an early date and bore his full share in all the work and danger of the long struggle with Mexicans, Indians and poverty. Though on the shady side of life, when the Cordova-Flores combination made its advent upon the scene, he went promptly to the front and remained there till the conspiracy was frustrated. Though in no sense of the word a military man, he was a successful

commander. His genial, unostentatious disposition won him the good will of his men, who would have gone through fire to serve him. Instead of ordering his men to go and come, it was "Well, boys, I think we had better do" so and so; and a cheerful "All right, Captain," was the response, acted on with a will. Or if the matter in hand seemed doubtful, there was a conference, in which every man was allowed to join; thus he maintained control over his little army. He afterward went to LaGrange, where he engaged in the hotel business, and I believe, died there, never having married. His brother, Richard, who was killed at the battle of Conception Mission, left a wife, but I think no children. Reddin Andrews left several children, some of whom are to the front yet.

A little incident occurred at the Coleman fort after Captain Eastland took command will show the success of Captain Andrew's policy. Captain Eastland was disgusted with the want of military discipline among the men and the easy familiarity with which they treated their commander.

"If Captain Andrews can't control his men, I'll try and control mine," said he, but one morning the men all marched out on the parade grounds, stacked arms and, turning to Captain Eastland, told him that he might "go to hell and they would go home." The men had the best of the situation and the captain had no alternative but to capitulate, which he had the good sense to do gracefully and thoroughly, and thereafter had no trouble with his men. What Captain Eastland did for the country is so well known that my humble tribute can add nothing to the lustre of his name. Ever among the first to respond to the call "to arms" he fell, as brave men ever fall, with his face to the foe, one of the seventeen who drew fatal black beans at Salado.

My next public service, done in private capacity, however, was the cutting of the first seals of office for Bastrop County.

The seals, three in number, were still doing duty in the offices of the county judge, clerk and sheriff the last I knew of them, but doubtless they have long since been cast aside. They should have been preserved, however, as interesting relics, both of the county and state, they being made of pieces broken from a six-inch shell, of which there were a number lying around town. There were two theories to account for their presence, either or both of which may have been correct. One, that Conrad Rohrer, a teamster in government employ, brought them from the Alamo as trophies of victory after its surrender to the Texans in 1835. The other, and I am inclined to think the correct version—that when Gaona's division of the Mexican army came on there in the spring of 1836 they expected to find the town fortified and came prepared to shell us out; but, finding it abandoned and being in haste to join Santa Anna, they left the shells and quite likely other heavy missiles, as the roads were very wet and boggy. Having no appliances for melting the metal, I laid the shell, which was about an inch thick, on the anvil and broke it with a sledge hammer, dressing the blocks down to their required size and shape with chisels.

As there are few now living who remember the first incumbents of the offices to which those seals were attached, I will add that they were Andrew Rabb, judge; Richard Vaughn, sheriff, and William Gorham, clerk. Some years later, the district court was instituted with Judge R. Q. Mills on the bench. Having established a reputation for that kind of business, I cut several other seals and was offered a large fee to counterfeit the seal of the land office. That was not in my line, however, but the land sharks found ways and means to get on without the seal, as many an honest settler found to his cost and the disgrace of the county.

I have no knowledge of the town of Bastrop ever having been called Mina, as there was no settlement there prior to its occupation by the Anglo-Texans. It was simply the point at which the old military road leading from Bexar to Nacogdoches, crossed the Colorado and was known as the San Antonio crossing. The river and road formed the north and west boundaries of Austin's first colony. It was about 1829 that the first installment of colonists, headed by old Marty Wells and including old Billy Barton, Leman and Jesse Barker, Josiah Wilbarger, Reuben Hornsby, and others, went up there.

In an old book of records in the office of the county clerk of Bastrop County may be found the following entry:

Noah Smithwick presented the following account, to-wit:

1838, Bastrop County; to Noah Smithwick, debtor, to making two seals, one for the County Court and one for the Probate Court, \$100.00. Signed, L. C. Cunningham, Chief Justice of the Court. Ordered paid.

JAMES SMITH, A. S. J.
SAMUEL CRAFT, A. S. J.
SAMUEL R. MILLER, Clerk
Pro. Tem. C. C. C. B.

Red Rock Named By Sam Petty From A Rock

(Taken from the issue of the Advertiser January 28, 1937)

BY LOIS NELLENE TURNER

This present Red Rock was once standing about a mile from here which is now known as "Hannah And". The man who named Red Rock was Sam Petty, and because of a peculiar round red rock.

Dick Stone built the first store at Old Red Rock. Ben Dodd owned the first post office building and Joe Probst and Mr. Pester owned a store. A saloon was owned by John Bowen. Dr. Pannel and son, who was a doctor also, were early physicians, and later Dr. Harris moved to Red Rock from High Grove to take their practice. This was in 1890. He cared for the people there for the next forty years.

Jim Duran Sr. owned the first blacksmith shop over there. There was one gin owned by John Bowen. There were two different school buildings, though both were destroyed by storms. A Masonic Hall was over one of these school buildings.

In the year of 1890 the railroad was built through here, and a depot, the first building in the new town. The second building, Mr. Wilbarger of Bastrop built a lumber yard, run by Bob Gill, and later by Gus Jung. The third building was John Osborn's saloon which was later sold to Will Smith.

The first hotel was built by John Bowen from Old Red Rock. Joe Probst, Herman Pester and Ernest Runk all moved their stores over here about the same time. Then they built their residences here. Thomas Williams built the first blacksmith shop. Walter Hendrix the first cotton gin, and later Jake Talley built a gin. There were from 1600 to 2500 bales of cotton ginned each year in Red Rock in those days.

The first drug store was built by Major Anderson, and run by Butler Kink. It was later burned to the ground. About this time the school house was built where our present one stands today. A. D. Haliburton and wife were the first teachers. Dr. Pannel and Dr. Harris were the doctors of the New Red Rock. Dr. Pannel left in about ten years.

L. A. Turner's family lived here before the new Red Rock was built. Later Gabe Lentz built a store where Allie Black's home stands today, which was later destroyed by fire. Gabe Lentz's home was where Hays Harris now lives. A Mr. Flint and Joe Williams built a store which they later tore away, where the Red and White and Masonic Hall burned down lately. A Mr. Pogue from Pettytown built the second hotel. Mr. Pogue stayed one month, sold out to Wade Harper, who stayed a few years and then sold out to P. Ridge, who ran the hotel until he died. This building was finally torn away by T. R. Mobley. The cotton warehouse was built along about this time. There was also a store building put on the last corner of the street by Wade Harper.

They had preaching in the school house until the three churches were built, first the Baptist, second the Christian and third the Nazarene.

Everything went along nicely and prospered and in 1906 the first brick store was built by E. Runk. A second brick building was used for a bank, owned by stockholders.

In the year of 1918 in August, the town was destroyed by fire, beginning at Mr. Pester's store on down the street. Soon they were building them back again. O. B. Lentz built a tile building, also Mobley Pharmacy and the Liberty Garage, owned by the Black Brothers. Other wooden stores were built back owned by Charlie Hilbig, post office; Charlie Ingram, grocer, Dee Alexander, meat market and store combined.

W. A. Petty and Wallace Turner built a store. Also a barber shop and a saloon were built by Will Smith. A few years passed when the town was destroyed by fire again, from the Liberty Garage to the depot. It was built again. A store by Baxter Turner burned in 1935. A barber shop by Bill Buckner and the J. W. Smith store are vacant at this time. Gus Jung's lumbeyard burned about the year of 1930. It was rebuilt on main street but caught fire and burned the main buildings.

Dr. Harris died in 1927 and in 1928 Dr. Wright moved here and took his place. In 1929 our present school house was built, and the Black Brothers built a theatre here, first silent pictures then talking pictures—the first talking pictures in Bastrop County. They ran the theatre four or five years then tore the show buildings away. Bill Petty now runs the brick store. The bank is closed. Two meat markets owned by Charlie James next to the bank have burned lately. O. B. Lentz's store, Mobley's Pharmacy, Liberty Garage, Barber shop and meat market are all that is left in Red Rock, except a few citizens, some of whom are moving away. However, since the highline is here and the highway is in progress, we believe that Red Rock will build up again. But to my opinion if a few more buildings burn and people keep moving away, Red Rock will soon be off the map.

Bastrop Bridge Completed In 1890 Enterprise

(Taken from an issue of the Advertiser about 1890)

It is the pleasure of the Advertiser to note the fact that old Bastrop has passed another mile in the great race of progress. The bridge is completed. At a meeting of the board of directors held Monday, December 1, the magnificent structure was accepted and the details of the settlement were finally consummated Wednesday, by Mr. Horton, representing the Construction Company and President Hasler, Secretary Batts and Treasurer Powell for the home company.

The construction of the bridge was in some respects the most important enterprise that our young people have ever carried to a successful consummation. In point of absolute business importance the bridge is second only to a railroad while, as showing the confidence our people have in the old town, it stands first. It was a doubtful and untried business enterprise. Whether it could be made to pay was a question that could not be and can not be answered, but its projectors believed that even if it could not now bring dividends the growth of Bastrop would at some time secure them compensation.

The construction of the bridge has been persistently advocated by the Advertiser for years, but no active steps were taken until September 1889, when B. C. Duval, P. O. Elzner, M. H. Young and others became active promoters. A subscription list was circulated and about \$1200 secured. With this list AS A START A MEETING WAS CALLED FOR October 8, 1889. It was expected that much speech making, and the like, would be indulged in but instead the subscribers elected a board of directors and adjourned. The directors were as follows: J. C. Higgins, J. C. Buchanan, B. C. Duval, T. A. Hasler, P. O. Elzner, E. Bastian, C. Kleinert, J. J. Moncure, M. H. Young, T. C. Cain, T. C. Osborne, R. L. Batts, C. F. Drake, W. C. Powell and Louis Eilers. The directors elected T. A. Hasler, president, P. O. Elzner, vice president, W. C. Powell, treasurer and R. L. Batts, secretary. A charter was immediately secured under the name of Bastrop Bridge Company, and the directors went actively to work. Committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions. Having raised about \$1800 the directors advertised for plans and proposals.

On December 2, 1889 a large number of plans and propositions were submitted. A committee, composed of B. C. Duval, M. H. Young, W. C. Powell, H. Osborne, Louis Eilers and R. L. Batts, was appointed to select two plans and specifications. The committee selected two plans and bids were received on both. The lowest bid on both plans, was made by the Chicago Bridge & Iron Co., their bids being on one plan \$42000 and on the one adopted (a plan submitted by that company) \$45000. The next lowest bid on the Chicago Bid Company was \$47000 and other bids ranged from this sum to \$582150.00 The plan and bid of the Chicago Company was accepted and a contract entered into with it at once. There was a deficit of several thousand dollars in the amount of cash required but the directors unanimously voted to become responsible for its payment and afterwards signed an obligation to that effect.

The bridge was to have been completed September 1, 1890, but though the contracting company went to work soon after the contract was signed, the work was by various causes delayed and was not completed until about three months after the stipulated time.

The bridge is thus described by Engineer Pope by whom it was inspected:

The bridge is a wrought iron structure of two wrought iron cantilever trusses each of 301 feet length, supported on four piers. Each pier consists of two tubular iron cylinders six feet in diameter filled with concrete. The cantilever trusses have wooden trestle approaches from both banks.

The length of the bridge is as follows:
Wooden trestle approach from left or Bastrop bank to center of 1st pier 100½ feet. Iron work to 2nd pier half of cantilever truss, 150½ feet.

Total length of bridge from bank to bank as per specification 1268 feet.

As will be seen from above, the total length of trestle approaches is 745½ feet. The specifications calls for 645.

In addition to the length mentioned above there are dirt approaches aggregating 175 feet which make the total length of the bridge 1544 feet, or considerable more than a quarter of a mile. The two halves of the two cantilever spans, which cover the distance between the second and third pier, constitute a span perhaps the longest in Texas. This character of bridge is also new to the state, it being probably the only one in Texas. It is one of the very few that have been constructed in the United States.

Paige Merchants Offered Variety Of Services

(Taken from the Historical Edition of the Advertiser, 1935.)

Paige is one of the most important little towns in Bastrop County. It is situated in the rich agricultural section of the East end of Bastrop County. The soil in the vicinity is fertile and produces melons, cotton, corn, peanuts and products of the farm. The people are mostly of Anglo-German descent, hardy, industrious and thrifty, and make up a citizenship that adds to the pride of Bastrop County.

The town of Paige is a complete trading center within itself and serves adequately the surrounding territory. Twelve business houses and a bank offer a variety of commodities and services that make this little town comparatively independent and self-sustaining.

The Guaranty State Bank with a capital stock of \$25,000.00 and a surplus fund of half that amount renders ample banking service to this rich agricultural area. It is one of the strongest small banks in Texas.

J. E. PAULS

Among the old business houses is J. E. Pauls General Merchandise. This is one of the oldest business organizations in Paige. This business was opened nearly 60 years ago by J. E. Pauls, who came here from Germany in 1878. He entered business with Mr. F. Soder and for many years the business was operated as Soder and Pauls. Upon the death of Mr. Soder, his interest in the business was acquired by Mr. Pauls and continued under his name.

Mr. Pauls was one of the best citizens this county ever had. He was thrifty, honest and conscientious, a neighbor and friend to all. He built up a large mercantile business, dealing in all kinds of merchandise required by the community and also engaged in the cotton brokerage business from which he amassed quite a sizeable fortune. He acquired considerable real estate in Paige, Houston and Galveston, much of which remains in the family estate today.

Mr. Pauls died March 6, 1926, a few months before he planned to make a trip to his native Germany for an extended visit. Upon his death the business passed into the capable hands of his son, Edward C. Pauls, a young man who had grown up in the business and is a capable and far-sighted young business man in his own right. He has proven a worthy successor to a worthy father.

W. ENGLEHART

Not many of the old trail drivers who went up the Chisholm trail with Texas Longhorns to Dodge City and Abilene in the long drives that took steers to market in the day before railroads came to Texas, are living today. Most of the old time cowboys have gone to the "Last Round-up", but here and there about the state remain a few active old-timers who "Whooped it up" with the trail drivers of the eighties. One of these old time cowboys was W. Englehart, now a prosperous merchant at Paige. Mr. Englehart can tell some stirring tales of the old trail days—or long weeks on the drive, fights with rustlers, the roaring cow towns of Kansas and Wyoming. He is a native of Houston but for the past twenty years he has been established at Paige, where he does a thriving business.

HIGHWAY GARAGE

Among the enterprising business organizations of Paige is the Highway Garage, managed and operated by E. F. Herklotz. This business was started in 1925 and since that time has done a thriving business. Mr. Herklotz, the genial and capable manager of the business is a native of Bastrop County, a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Herklotz. He is a graduate of the Nashville Automobile College and is thoroughly conversant with all phases of automobile repairing and servicing. This concern has the agency for Dodge and Plymouth cars and have sold several this season. At present the proprietor is installing machinery for a complete machine shop that will enable him to make repairs to all kinds of machinery.

LOUIS VOGEL, PONTIAC DEALER

One of the progressive automobile agencies of Bastrop County is the Pontiac agency conducted by Louis Vogel. This enterprising dealer serves all of the northend of the county with his Pontiac agency and has sold many new cars this year. (1935). His home and office is at Paige but his display rooms are in Bastrop at the City Garage. These cars are finding favor with the people of this county and this business is rapidly growing into one of the major auto agencies of the county.

BEAUTY CAFE

One of the busiest spots in Paige is the Beauty

Cafe, owned and operated by H. W. Nagorka, a cafe man of long experience. In May of this year, (1935) Mr. Nagorka purchased the cafe and service station from Mr. John Foerster and since that time has done a brisk business in his line. This cafe gives excellent service, offering cold drinks, cold beer, light lunches, confections, cigars and tobaccos. The service station handles Gulf Refining Company products and is a popular stopping place for motorists along highway No. 20, because they can get fuel for their cars and excellent Cafe service at one stop. Mr. Nagorka is a native of Giddings and has been in business in that city for a number of years.

E. O. WILDE, GENERAL MERCHANDISE

All stores and business houses in Paige do a very nice business and among the progressive concerns serving this community is the general merchandise store that has been operated by E. O. Wilde since 1920. Mr. Wilde is a native of Lee County. His father settled at Lincoln in 1885 but later moved to the Paige section of this county. Mr. Wilde was connected with J. E. Pauls for sixteen years and in this capacity gathered much of his merchandising experience. During the fifteen years he has been in business for himself he has built up a wide patronage and his store is among the largest establishments in Paige.

PAIGE GARAGE

One of the important service institutions serving the Paige community is the Jantzen Garage. It is not only one of the oldest business enterprises serving the city but one of the most useful. In addition to operating a general repair garage, Mr. Jantzen operates an electric light plant which furnishes electricity for the town. This plant renders 24 hour service and the equipment is modern and up-to-date, assuring adequate electric service at all times. In addition to the lighting plant and automobile repair business, Mr. Jantzen operates a well equipped machine shop in which repairs can be made to almost all kinds of machinery with dispatch and efficiency.

CITY MEAT MARKET

Paige is fortunate in having the City Meat Market as it assures the community of a variety of fresh and cured meats at all seasons handled by an experienced and capable butcher and meat cutter under modern sanitary conditions. The City Market is owned and operated by John Foerster, who has been in this line of business most of his useful life. He started in this line of business with his father in 1905 and, with exception of a few short intervals, has been engaged in this line since that date. Mr. Foerster is a progressive and forward looking citizen of Paige and his whole life has been devoted to make his home town a better place in which to live. His family has been reared in Paige and he is one of the leading boosters of the town.

Records Of The Advertiser

Poems were frequently printed in the papers. We re-print one here:

WHAT IS GOOD?

"What is real good?"
I asked in musing mood.
"Order," said the law court;
"Knowledge," said the school;
"Truth," said the wise man;
"Pleasure," said the fool;
"Love," said the maiden;
"Whiskey," said the printer;
"Beauty," said the page;
"Freedom," said the dreamer;
"Home," said the sage;
"Fame," said the soldier;
"Equity," said the seer;
Spoke my heart full sadly:
"The answer is not here."
Then within my bosom
Softly this I heard:
"Each heart holds the secret;
Kindness is the word!"

BASTROP COUNTY FACTS

During this and last week, Messrs. T. M. Rector and Tom Chalmers have shipped two cars of watermelons, the first melons ever shipped from this point by the car load. One car contained 1170 and the other 1250 melons. They also shipped a car of onions.

Oil prospectors were busy in Bastrop County in 1923.

A "rattlesnake ranch" was operated by the Frazier boys north of Elgin in 1915. Hundreds of rattlesnakes were raised here . . . The youths were offered as much as 25 cents per pound for all the snakes they could send to persons who made snake oil for medicinal purposes.

Mrs. Sarah Jane Orgain of Bastrop was 94 years of age in 1924.

SOCIAL WRITE-UPS CHANGE WITH THE PASSING YEARS

Reading over clippings and articles from the Advertiser files we find that the style of writing has changed considerably from the way we write today. The following are some interesting descriptions made in early write-ups:

In most articles a complete description of what the ladies wore was given in a write-up. Seldom names of guests were listed, but many details were given to the personality and quality of the host or hostess or the bride or groom, which ever the article was pertaining to, the lavishness of the food served, and the elegance and beauty of the home and furnishings were mentioned. Also men's attire was described in detail for a wedding, complete to the white gloves.

In one article a list of the bride's gifts received were listed, and who gave them. Also much emphasis would be placed upon the beauty and goodness of the bride and what an outstanding place she held in the community.

One article was giving an account of a White Domino party where all guests wore "elegantly gotten up white Domino masks". One group enjoyed a Pink Domino party, where the guests were all dressed in pink.

The following is a paragraph taken from an entertainment write-up: "About 11 o'clock the doors to the dining room were thrown open, and the guests invited to supper, and such a supper, ye gods, the table was literally groaning beneath its precious weight, which tongue or pen fail to describe".

Another paragraph read "Under a fine old pecan tree stood the piano, and in front was the closely shaven lawn, furnished with comfortable seats. Through the trees came the struggling moonbeams' misty light, shedding a soft radiance over all, and making it appear like a fairy scene."

One wedding was headed "A Chrysanthemum Wedding". The ladies all wore pastel chrysanthemums and each gentleman attendant wore his lady's colors in a tiny boutonniere.

An account of "The Rainbow Party" was given as follows: "The rainbow party was an inspiration. Whenever the Bastrop ladies attempt anything, everybody expects them to succeed, and they do; but even those who have known them longest and feasted with them oftenest have never seen a more pleasant entertainment than the party managed by the younger ladies of the Methodist congregation, at the church lawn, Tuesday evening. Fair girls in white, ice cream in big saucers, gentle southern breezes, cake piled high, starry heavens, sure a section of paradise dropped to earth".

A paragraph from a Medical Society meeting reads: "A paper was read on the diseases of women and their treatment, which was discussed, all agreeing that it was an excellent paper on this much neglected subject".

"Refreshments were then served, an excellent salad and an ice cream in form of a dainty slipper holding a spray of lillies of the valley, with delicious heart shaped cakes," was a description from a society article appearing in 1908. Also from the same article: "A number of the guests being fond of music took great delight in the beautiful Chickering Grand Piano which graces this home and congratulated the hostess upon possession of such a fine instrument".

"The beauty, the fragrance, the grace of plumery fern of stately lily and of swaying blossom—all were friendship's tribute to the loveliness and worth of the sweet young bride".

A political announcement was written thus: "In the proper column this week will be found the announcement for office of a Democrat of the old school, a Democrat who has met both victory and defeat, as expressed by the will of the majority, with the same abiding faith in the noble principles as expressed in Democracy."

This And That About Bastrop

By Alfred E. Menn

The Bastrop Debating Society had the following officers: Major J. D. Sayers, president; Captain B. D. Orgain, vice president; Dr. T.P. Early, treasurer; Frank MacKenna, secretary.

A. J. Batts stated that he had raised some very fine peaches.

Red Rock - Rockne One Of Riciest Areas In County

(Taken from the Historical Edition of the Advertiser August 29, 1935)

Red Rock and Rockne are situated in one of the finest agricultural and cattle raising sections of Bastrop County and the citizens of this section are among the most prosperous and progressive the county affords. The recent development of oil in this section has added materially to the wealth of its citizens. These towns are popular trading points and are the scenes of much commercial activity.

LIBERTY GARAGE

The Liberty Garage at Red Rock is one of the best equipped service institutions if its kind in the county. Their machine shop has all the tools and machinery needed for turning out repair work on all kinds of automobiles and machinery. This business was started in 1913 as Black & Turner. When the war broke out, Mr. W. A. Black entered the army and sold his interest to R. A. Harris. Today this business is owned by A. W. and Gatie Black and they are two of the towns most progressive young business men. They operated the first sound picture show in the county, and were showing first run pictures that are just now coming to some of the larger towns. They maintain their own lighting plant and in every way have a modern garage. They are agents for Ford cars and enjoy a considerable patronage in this line.

RED ROCK GIN CO.

Perhaps the most important commercial enterprise serving Red Rock is the Red Rock Gin. This is one of the old established business organizations of the community and is one of the best patronized gins in the county. They gin from 1200 to 2500 bales per year and in peak years have exceeded this number. The gin is equipped with the latest type of ginning machinery, including a cleaning department that thoroughly cleans all trash and foreign matter from the cotton. This gin was established many years ago by Jake Talley and has always played an important role in the cotton industry in the Red Rock section. It is operated by a corporation, and the direct management of the gin is in the capable hands of Gatie Black, who in addition to being general manager, is treasurer of the company. Gus Jung is president, A. W. Black, vice president, of the company and A. G. Buescher is a member of the board of directors.

O. B. LENTZ

The general merchandise establishment of O. B. Lentz is one of the old business landmarks of Red Rock. The Lentz family is one of the old and respected families of the community and enjoy a brisk trade in all kinds of first class merchandise. They are housed in their own brick building and are prepared to carry on an extensive business. The Lentz family have been prominent in business and social circles in this county for more than two generations.

W. A. PETTY

W. A. Petty, the genial postmaster and merchant at Red Rock, is a member of a family that settled in this section in 1854. The community where the first Petty settled is known as Pettytown. W. A. Petty has been in the merchandise and cattle business most of his useful life in Red Rock and Lockhart and today operates one of the most popular general merchandise establishments in this community.

JAMES' PLACE

Charles E. James is a farmer turned merchant and he has made a success of both ventures. He came to Bastrop County sixteen years ago and bought a farm near Red Rock and engaged in the cattle and farming industry. Later he opened a meat market and confectionery at Red Rock and today he is the owner of his original business and also of James' Place in Bastrop and the Theatre Cafe in Lockhart.

W. F. MOBLEY

W. F. Mobley is a school teacher by training and a banker by profession, and is now engaged in the merchandise business. He came to Red Rock in 1908 as a school teacher and taught for two and one half years. With the organization of the bank at Red Rock, his services were drafted to serve as cashier and he executed his duties in this capacity in an efficient manner until the bank liquidated in 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Mobley and their family are among the leading citizens of the community in which they reside.

W. M. HILBIG & SON, AT ROCKNE

The pioneer merchants of Rockne, or Hilbigville as it was originally known, is W. M. Hilbig & Son. Mr. W. M. Hilbig came to the community in 1871 with his parents and settled on a farm near the present site of their activity. In 1922 he decided to go into the merchandise business and with a stock that inventoried something under \$300, set up in business. From this small beginning has grown the big store that does a general merchandise business over a wide area. In 1927, Mr. Fred Hilbig went into the growing business and this young man now is actively engaged in the management of the business with his father.

BARTSCH GARAGE OF ROCKNE

For automobile and machinery repair work well done, people of the Rockne community have found that it is a good idea to take the machine to Bartsch Garage. Young Matthew Bartsch is a skilled and conscientious mechanic who takes pride in a job well done. He has a good shop and enjoys the reputation of turning out perfect workmanship on all repair jobs entrusted to his care. He does all kinds of repair work including acetylene welding, and the class of service he renders is building up his business to an enviable position.

BASTROP INSTITUTE LISTED IN 1861 ALMANAC

(From Affleck's "Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar" for 1861)

Situated at Bastrop Texas, the Bastrop Military Institute was organized in the year 1857, by Col. R. P. T. Allen, the founder and for many years the superintendent of the Kentucky Military Institute, a distinguished graduate of West Point of the class of 1834, and for some years, a practical engineer.

The charter of the institute confers university powers, and provides that the governor of the state shall be ex-officio inspector of the institute; and that the usual degree shall be conferred by a joint board, composed of the Board of Trustees, a board of visitors on the part of the state, and a board of visitors on the part of the Texas Annual Conference.

The institute was opened for the reception of pupils in September, 1857, and has entered upon the fourth year of its existence with largely increased numbers, and the most gratifying prospects of success.

The peculiar excellency of this institution consists in the very great thoroughness of instruction, and the strictness of its government.

The greatest safeguards are thrown around the morals of the pupils. A member of the faculty is, at all times, present in the campus, and the cadets are, at all hours, under his supervision as officer in charge.

The course of study is unusually full in the Mathematics and Natural Sciences. And Surveying and Civil Engineering are taught practically as a profession.

Bastrop has been unusually healthy even for Western Texas, since the establishment of the Institute, and has had as small a percentage of sickness as any where else to be found.

Col. Allen's method of government has been peculiarly successful, securing the love of the pupil, and, at same time, complete obedience; and throwing around him safeguards and influences entirely unknown in ordinary college life.

He is assisted by an able faculty of four professors and three assistants.

Institute charges, \$230 for the academical year of 40 weeks, for boarding and tuition, including lights, fuel, washing; with a deduction of \$40.00 for cadets pursuing only the elementary English branches.

FROM THE ADVERTISER ISSUE OF FEB. 9, 1892

S. T. Cain has bought the Elgin Courier, Miles H. Hill, retiring. Tom, here's our hand, may you and the Courier live long and prosper.

Capt. Batts, assignee has brought part of the Fawcett & Sayers stock of goods to Bastrop and selling them off at cost in the Reynolds building, with Bob Hubbard and Ed Batts as salesmen.

The hope of an artesian well at Bastrop is doomed to disappoint. After sinking a hole about a thousand feet work was abandoned, at a loss of \$1300 to the Bastrop Loan and Investment Company and about \$2000 to the contractor.

Tom Osborn killed the fatted calf Wednesday. It was home raised, stall fed, and at 14 months netted 216 pounds. Tom is having it pickled for use in the Iron Front Restaurant.

Mrs. Delia Reynolds and Mrs. T. J. Trigg, went up to Taylor to attend the dedication of the \$13,000 Christian church at that place, returning to Bastrop Monday.

Historical Society Formed To Preserve Relics Of Bastrop's Early Days

Mrs. Powell C. Maynard

The members of the Ladies Reading Circle, in their quest for the cultural development of their town, had long felt the need to awaken an interest in the early history and legends of the beginning of Bastrop, and the people who set the pattern that made it what it is today.

Realizing that the older generation was fast slipping away, we knew that our generation could not wait longer if we were to fulfill our mission of creating an interest in and a love for the beautiful heritage that had been given to us, with its stories of valor and heroism, and of the high courage and faith that sustained those gallant souls, our forefathers, in their vision for building a home for a people, a community in which they could develop all that was high and noble in man.

We decided to sponsor and organize the Bastrop Historical Society, and met for that purpose in the home of Mrs. Powell Maynard on February 12, 1952.

There were thirty ladies present, mostly members of the Reading Circle, who felt a deep interest in this project of preserving the history of Bastrop and who signed as charter members.

With each meeting, their enthusiasm grew and spread throughout the town and surrounding communities. Many people outside of the organization began collecting and sending in information on early history and events.

When in April, 1952, the Historical Society accepted the invitation of the Reading Circle to join with them in buying the Lonnie Miller property, one of the oldest houses in town, on the bank of the Colorado near the Old Ferry crossing, for a museum and club house, our enthusiasm knew no bounds and the whole town seemed happy to join in helping us make this dream come true.

Since our beginning, we have added many new members, some former residents who, through their years away, have not lost their love for and interest in everything concerning Bastrop; and many other former residents of Bastrop, who continue to call Bastrop home, have sent us checks and encouragement to help carry on our work.

Since our organization, we have received from residents and former residents of Bastrop, in gifts and donations and from dues and money making projects, funds which we have used in buying, restoring and improving the museum building.

We have also received donations of material and labor, given by friends in Bastrop whose names will be placed on our Honor Roll of Contributors and kept as a permanent record in the archives of the museum.

The building is now completed. It is receiving as gifts or loans those objects, documents, books or pieces of furniture, suitable for a Museum, that you have long cherished because they have had a part in the history of Bastrop and you would now like to share them with others.

These are our accomplishments today. There is much yet to be done to make our Museum what a Museum should be, as it tells the story of Bastrop, of its early days and the many changes that have come through the years.

May we have that same vision, that same high courage and faith in all that we are planning and doing today, that we may give to our generation and to those who follow after, that same feeling of pride in having had a part in the building of Bastrop, the home of a high and noble people, Texans and Americans.

Charter members are the following:

Mrs. Powell C. Maynard, Mrs. Joe K. Young, Mrs. J. Gordon Bryson, Mrs. E. R. Barnhill, Mrs. Earl M. Denman, Mrs. Fred G. Haynie, Mrs. C. A. Long, Mrs. W. E. Maynard, Mrs. Oren Eskew, Miss Lena Sturges, Mrs. R. M. Waugh, Mrs. Tignal Jones, Mrs. R. H. Brieger, Mrs. R. P. Perkins, Mrs. Arthur P. Smith, Mrs. W. J. Miley, Mrs. Earl C. Erhard, Mrs. R. E. Standifer, Mrs. S. J. C. Higgins, Mrs. C. B. Maynard, Mrs. J. P. Sharp, Mrs. Maude Herndon, Mrs. Gem Simmons, Mrs. John Barton, Mrs. E. S. Orgain, Miss Esther Anderson, Mrs. J. V. Ash, Sr., Mrs. Charlie Eskew, Mrs. Mary Long, Miss Julia Moncure.

New members added later include Mrs. Bruce Allbright of Lockhart, Miss Faye Chalmers, Mrs. Owen Chalmers, Mrs. Lowell Culpepper, Mrs. Will Dechard of Austin, Miss Nell Fitzwilliam, Miss Grace Fitzwilliam, Mrs. O. P. Jones, Mrs. Gus Keil, Mrs. Willie Belle Kennedy, Mrs. Clarence McFall, Mrs. J. L. McMillian of Corpus Christi, Miss Leah Moncure of Austin, Mrs. Dale Rorem, Mrs. E. H. Smith, Miss Claiborne Templeton, Mrs. Robert Tullis of Smithville, Mrs. Bruno Elzner, Mrs. J. L. Waugh, Mrs. Dora Hudson of Smithville.

Reminiscences of Bastrop County History 1828-1847

The following stories were taken from "Personal Reminiscences of Texas History Relating to Bastrop County from 1828 to 1847" by John H. Jenkins Sr. The manuscript was dictated to his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Emma Holmes Jenkins, of Bastrop, many years ago.

One evening in the spring of '33, Mr. Wells and son, riding a short distance out of Mina, returned in great haste, reporting Indians lurking in the hills, evidently intent upon mischief. After a brief council, the citizens planned to trap and catch the Indians. They were to stake horses on Gill's Branch, just out of Mina, where the Indians had been seen, then hide, and watch for them to try to steal them, when their capture would be an easy matter. A nice plot if well executed, but by a little heedlessness, or want of prudence, they were caught in their own net.

Having staked their horses, they imprudently left them without guards, and returned to Bastrop to eat supper, thinking the Indians would not attempt to take them, until later in the night. They were greatly surprised upon going out after supper, to find all the horses gone. The thieves in ambush had seen and seized their first opportunity. This theft left the little village almost destitute of horses, for nearly every one who owned one, rode him out to aid in the scheme. Being therefore on foot, the citizens made no pursuit, and the savages went their way unmolested.

About now occurred the first scouting raid ever made by Edward Burleson against the Indians.

An old man, Mr. Alexander, and his son were coming to these parts with a load of goods when they were waylaid and killed on the Gotier Trace where their bodies were found a few days afterward. Burleson immediately raised a squad of men, and after burying the bodies of the unfortunate father and son, proceeded to examine the ground and everything near the scene in order to learn everything he could as to the strength of the assaulting party and the direction of their flight, etc. From all signs, the band had been quite small and on foot, but after trailing them about one hundred miles every trace of them was lost. The company, at a loss what course to pursue, was resting in camps deliberating matters when Mr. Bayt Berry, with one or two others, went out hunting. In the course of his hunt, Berry found a solitary Caddo Indian whom he immediately brought to Burleson. The captive warrior claimed to be entirely honest and friendly at the same time informing Gen. Burleson that his friends in band were camping near. He was at once ordered to lead the way to their camps and very soon they came to an encampment of eight or ten warriors. The approach of Burleson's men caused terrible confusion and alarm amongst them and two of them started off apparently in great haste. Seeing this, Burleson dispatched men to follow them. They were led to two horses which, being well shod, were evidently horses belonging to citizens—Indians horses were seldom well shod or cared for in any respect.

Burleson captured the entire band, having considerable evidence that they were the murderers of the Alexanders, and a strong suspicion that the horses were stolen from our citizens, although they claimed that they were lost horses which they had been hired to find and restore to their rightful owners. A vote was taken as to what should be the fate of the captives and seven were killed while the eighth was a notorious glass-eyed Caddo who had before been caught with thieving parties. He was brought back to Mina, where he was held under guard awhile, until his identity could be fully proved, and finally released.

Many on the Trinity and Brazos, who had known these Caddos only on their trading or hunting raids, censured Burleson for their being killed, but if they had known all the strong circumstantial evidence pointing to them as not only horse-thieves but the wretches who murdered the Alexanders, he would have been acquitted of all blame.

Soon after this Major Coleman raised about eighteen men and made a raid over on the Nava-sot near Parker's Fort, where was situated a village of Waco Indians. A scheme was laid whereby the entire village might be taken. Under cover of darkness, they crawled up into the very midst of the Indians, and there lay concealed, waiting for day-light. Mr. Jessie Holderman was appointed to give signal for action. But matters were somewhat hastened. Some dogs commenced barking, and one of the Indians arose and walked out to see what was the matter. He soon showed that he discovered the concealed whites, so Holderman, realizing their danger, fired, thereby giving signal for the fight to begin. And it was a fierce and heavy fight, although Coleman's eighteen men were struggling against an entire tribe. He was at last forced to retreat, three men—

Holdeman, Blish and Wallace being badly wounded, and one Mr. Williams killed. Soon after this defeat, Edward Burleson and John H. Moore raised a good force of men, and made another raid against the Waco village, which they found lone and deserted, the Indians having evidently left in great fright, leaving the finest kind of corn-crops growing in their fields.

Following their trail from the village for more than one hundred miles, they came upon a small encampment of Wacos. They immediately opened fire and killed three, taking five or six captive. From these they learned that the main Indian force was encamped some distance on. It was already too late to see distinctly, so they concluded to wait till morning to pursue the trail. Starting at early daylight, they soon found as the captives had represented, what had been the encampment of a large tribe, who had evidently left camps in great haste, for there were their stake ropes cut. They would not tarry long enough even to untie their horses. Men and horses were almost worn out, so it was thought best to come home, and rest awhile before making further effort.

So they commenced their homeward march, bringing their captive Wacos with them. Among these was one squaw with a bright little girl of three years old. This Indian child was much noticed and petted by the men, as she was not only bright but very pretty.

One night, while encamped on the Brazos, a horrible incident occurred, which seems almost incredible. This savage mother having, by some means, obtained possession of a knife, first killed her little daughter and then attempted to kill herself. She was almost dead next morning when first noticed, and there being no time for delay, Burleson called for a volunteer to kill her. Mr. Oliver Buckman came promptly forward, and volunteered to commit the deed, seemingly a brutal one, but in reality a mercy to the wretched woman whose death was only a question of time.

Taking her to the water's edge, and drawing a large hack knife, which he had made himself, as she gazed unflinchingly into his face, with one stroke he severed her head from her body, both of which rolled into the water beneath.

As they came on home, they discovered about a half a mile from them two Indian warriors on foot, making for the timber which was still a half a mile further on. Some of the company were well mounted, and they instantly put out at full speed in pursuit. The young Indians out ran the horses and reached the timber in time to conceal themselves, before their pursuers came up. The whites partially surrounded the thicket, while some were sent in on foot to drive them out. Soon they found and shot one, and all were busy hunting the other one. At length Smith Hornsby, seeing him, shot, but missed him, whereupon the Indian shot, wounding him in the shoulder. Having only a discharged gun and suffering from his wound, he started from the brush, at the same calling out—"Here's the Indian!"

One of the surrounding party, Wm. McGill, in his excitement and haste, mistaking him for the missing warrior, shot, and tore the unfortunate man's arm literally in pieces. A physician who belonged to the company, after an examination, declared that amputation of his arm was his only chance for life. He positively refused to submit to the operation, declaring he preferred death to losing his arm. So after lingering along in great pain a day or two, he died and was buried according to the peculiar custom of the times. The earth was packed and smoothed above the body, till perfectly level, then a fire was kindled upon the spot and left burning. Thus where our dead slept was concealed by a seeming camp fire. This precaution was observed in order to prevent Indians from digging up the bodies and taking scalps.

On this raid Col. Neill adopted a singular, if not a barbarous method of sending destruction upon the Indians. Having procured some small-pox virus or matter, he vaccinated one of the captive warriors, and then released him to carry the infection into his tribe. Nothing was ever heard as to the success or failure of the project.

The subsequent history of one of these captives, a squaw, is not only interesting, but somewhat remarkable. After living here awhile, she seemed to have a growing and abiding horror of Indians, so that when a treaty, and an exchange of prisoners was made, she pleaded with tears to be allowed to remain with the whites. Some time afterward, a Mr. Bacon preached in Bastrop, and never before having seen a congregation or heard preaching, she imagined the whites were holding a council to kill her, and although several tried to quiet her fears, yet she ran away that night and was never heard of again.

Later on in 1833, a young man by the name of Harris came on to Bastrop from Alabama, and was soon well known in our community as a constant and most devoted hunter.

Out on a buffalo hunt alone, he once discovered fresh Indian signs, and hearing a shot, prudently came home. In a day or two, he started again, accompanied by his two friends, Messrs McDonald and Blakey, all still intent upon buffalo haunts below Austin, when coming to a steep bluff, two

of them dismounted and were leading their horses when a band of Indians came upon them, killing Harris and McDonald. Blakey, however, saw the danger in time, and having never dismounted, escaped, to bring home the news of the violent death of his friends. Immediately a small squad of men hastened to the scene, where they found both men killed and scalped. In addition to the scalp of McDonald, the savages had also carried off one of his arms, which was cut off at the elbow.

Taking their trail, they followed them some distance, at length finding where a large band had been encamped on Onion Creek. Here they found the arm of McDonald, which the savages had cooked to sufficient tenderness, and then removed one small bone of which they constructed a peculiar signal whistle much used in battle, and in hunting.

About now our state entered upon a series of constant and severe troubles from the oppressions and innovations of Mexico on the one hand, and the frequent thefts and murders by the Indians on the other, so that while Burleson held a force at San Antonio, which comprised most of our men, our frontier was thereby left almost defenseless.

The Indians, growing more and more troublesome, Captain John Tumblestone raised a minute company of the few men and boys left at home and these held themselves in readiness for protecting the homes and families of the soldiers who were doing valiant service against Mexico.

Very soon after the organization of this company, a man by the name of Hibbins, with his family, was travelling just below Gonzales, when some Indians coming upon them, killed him and captured his wife with two children. They lashed Mrs. Hibbins to a horse, where she was forced to travel three days, without rest or food, except small portions of raw buffalo tallow. It is painful to think of what the poor, poor woman must have suffered apart from her great physical pain and fatigue, in beholding first the cruel death of her husband, and then that of her youngest child, her babe, of whom the savages soon grew tired and dashed his brains out against a tree.

They camped one night on the Colorado, and just to tantalize her, told her that "heaps of Mexicans lived just down the river a piece." She silently put her wits to work to devise or find some means of escape, just as soon as possible. That night, after the warriors were all asleep, she left her little boy about four years old, knowing that to take him would but render her escape impossible. The night was very dark and the woman had to grope her way from the midst of the sleeping savages. While wandering still near the camp, she heard her child calling her. For a moment she hesitated. Her child was in distress and her first impulse was to go to him and comfort him. Then thinking of finding friends who might aid her in rescuing him, she trampled under foot all the anguish of a mother's heart and moved resolutely onward.

Following the river down as well as she could, she at length came to some cows feeding on the prairie, and concluded to try to drive them to their homes, thus hoping to find friends. She halloed at the cattle, and fortunately their owner, Mr. Hornsby, was out after them, and hearing her voice, went to her and took her to his home.

As good luck would have it, Captain Tumblestone with his men were there upon their arrival, and having heard the woman's tale, they immediately mounted and hastened to intercept them there. They came upon them just as they had finished dinner.

Already the captive boy was lashed to a mule, and they were in the act of resuming their journey, when Tumblestone's men charged upon them, killing one and causing the others to stampede, leaving stolen goods, horses, child and all. The little boy had more than one narrow escape that day, for in the skirmish, a Mr. Roarer, mistaking him for an Indian, raised his gun and tried to shoot him, but his gun refused to fire!

We come now to the fall of 1835, when without reservation or mercy, Mexico, throwing aside all obligation involved in the treaty of 1824, became so despotic in her dealings with the Republic of Texas, as to venture to seal her authority even by force of arms at Gonzales. This unwarrantable piece of tyranny and oppression of course aroused every loyal Texan, and there was a general rallying to arms and preparations for war. I was but a boy, in my fifteenth year, but was remarkably large and stout for my age. Besides, by constant practice, possessing by nature a good eye and steady nerves, I was an extraordinary shot, and as our citizens, one after another, took arms and left home to face the Mexicans, I began to use every effort to gain my mother's consent for me to enter the army. It was all in vain, however, and she positively refused to give ear to such a thing until the siege of the Alamo, when a new call came for men. Then with several friends to intercede in my behalf, we finally overcame her scruples and objections, and she consented, though since I have grown older, I know it must have been a trying ordeal for the lone woman to give up her oldest boy.

I enlisted in Captain Billingsley's company which was organized about ten miles below Bastrop, at what is now known as the old Burleson place. A-

bout the first of February 1836 we struck out for the appointed rendezvous, which was Gonzales. Ah! As I found myself among old friends and acquaintances, with all of a growing boy's appetite for good beef, bread and adventure, I thought there had never been such fun as serving as a Texas soldier marching against Mexico!

Reaching Gonzales, we joined Edward Burleson's regiment, which was already encamped there awaiting recruits. In about two weeks our commander-in-chief, General Sam Houston, came, marking quite an era in my life. I thought I had never seen so perfect a model of manliness and bravery, and my admiration knew no bounds, when calling the men together at De Witt's tavern in Gonzales, he delivered a short speech setting forth in stirring words the complication of troubles that threatened our republic, finally closing with a rousing appeal to every Texan to be loyal and true in this, her hour of need and peril. I yet consider him about the finest looking man I ever saw, as he stood over six feet tall, in the very prime of mature manhood. Things began to wear a more serious aspect now that I comprehended more fully the situation in all of its bearings, and in the still hours of the night as we lay and listened to the low ominous rumbling of cannons at San Antonio, I felt that we were engaged in no child's play. I now began to take in all of the responsibility, danger and grandeur of a soldier's life.

While at Gonzales, awaiting recruits, tidings came to us of the fall of the Alamo on the 6th of March, and of the terrible loss of 180 men, besides the band of 27 Texans, who during the siege made their way into the fort and were all slain. Many of the citizens of Gonzales perished in this whole-sale slaughter of Texans, and I remember most distinctly the shrieks of despair with which the soldier's wives received the news of the death of their husbands.

Immediately after these tidings, we were removed to the east side of the Guadalupe river, where the soldiers were at once set to work throwing breastworks, and making every preparation for battle. A heavy gloom seemed to settle upon our men after the fall of the Alamo, and the oldest, most experienced soldiers could be found at all times collecting about camps discussing the situation of affairs, and it would have been amusing to note the widely different views of the various questions under consideration, if they had not been of such vital importance to our Republic and her citizens. It was a generally conceded point that the oncoming of the Mexican army was simply a question of time.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock one night we were ordered to get us a day's rations and make ready for retreat. A very brief period of bustle and confusion and each soldier fell in line with "knapsack on back and rifle on shoulder". My knapsack consisted of about two pounds of bacon wrapped in a large mackinaw blanket. We took the road leading into what is called "The Burn-ham Neighborhood" in Fayette County and after a tedious march, camped the first night on Peach Creek only about ten miles from Gonzales. Now after one day's steady march, carrying rifle, ammunition and rations, tired and sleepy, I began to realize what endurance and fortitude are required in a soldier's life.

Immediately after early breakfast next morning, we were once more formed in line of battle and then ordered to fire, prime and reload our arms, whereupon we again took up the line of march or retreat. Here occurred my first disappointment in General Sam Houston, and some may regard it a small matter, but the sensation of surprised and wounded pride, mingled with indignation, return to me even now, when I recall the circumstances. I suppose he must have noticed how very young I was, and how tired I seemed, for having a Negro riding along behind him, he ordered him to dismount and told me I could ride awhile, at the same time bidding me ride immediately in advance of the army and not get too far ahead. Ah! As tired and footsore, I mounted the horse, I felt that I would be willing to die for Houston, who was thus proving himself not only a great general, but also a kind friend to his men. The horse was very spirited, and I, becoming absorbed in the scenery and my own thoughts, allowed him to go a little too fast, and was rudely aroused and shocked by the voice of my hero saying, "G-d d-n your soul. Didn't I order you to ride right here?"

Of course, he had cause to rebuke me, and I was thoroughly aware of the culpability of my carelessness, when it was too late, but his passionate harshness and curse, insulted and outraged my self-respect, boy as I was. Turning and dismounting, I gave the horse into the Negro's charge, declaring with all my heart that I would die rather than ride him another step—at the same time I again took my place in ranks.

With those few harsh words, General Houston completely changed the current of my feelings toward him, and my profound admiration and respect was turned into a dislike I could never conquer.

In the subsequent history of our state, when he was candidate for her honors, my vote was never cast in his favor, for memory was ever faithful in bringing back that loud curse, and my

feelings as I listened.

After a steady march of three days, on the evening of the fourth day, we reached our destination, which was the Burnham Neighborhood in Fayette County, where we lay encamped, still ever and anon receiving recruits. General Burleson occupied a two-fold relation to me, being not only my commander, but also my guardian since my father's death.

After a few days stay here, he detailed four of us, Greenleaf Fisk, Edward Blakey, Walker Willson and myself to come back to Bastrop, and look after the families, which had been left here, among whom was my mother. At the Grassmire place, we met eight or ten families, others having already gone on. Here I set in as a regular hand, driving cattle and helping in all the "ups and downs" of refugee life. And a terrible life it was, especially to the women and children. Exposed to the most disagreeable weather, wading through mud and water over the very worst of roads by day, and tentless by night, it was tedious and hard beyond description.

In Washington County on the Brazos, we met some of our neighbors who, having left the families safe at old Washington, were on their way back to Bastrop County to collect and run off stock from the invading Mexicans. Sam and Andrew Neal, Bob Pace and old Mr. Hugh Childers composed the party, and they brought word from my mother, that I had best turn back and help them.

I was relieved to try anything new, for the work of moving the families was not only hard, but exceedingly monotonous. We came in great haste to Bastrop, fearing we might find Mexicans already there. We found Col. Williamson or "Three-legged Willie" as he was called, with a small company of men, stationed there for its protection. I remember my shoes were worn almost entirely out when we reached Bastrop, and Col. Williamson presented me with a pair of good boots which were indeed acceptable. We crossed the river and collected all our cattle at Judge Smith's place, a mile this side, then all came back to town, leaving only Andrew Neal and myself to guard them. We felt the full danger and responsibility of our position and kept a close watch around us, to be ready for any emergency.

Very soon we saw a man whom we decided was a Mexican spy coming on the Old San Antonio Road—just the right direction for the advance of the Mexican army. We shut the doors and pulled out a chink in order to see and to shoot, if necessary. Soon we saw five or six more men and what seemed a large Mexican force approaching. We left the house and broke for the river bottom.

Immediately the army seemed to charge or rush after us, and seeing we would be overtaken, we hid behind some logs, and lo, upon a nearer approach, our Mexican spy proved to be a Delaware Indian, who had been trapping out on the San Saba and again the advancing army was a herd of cattle being driven beyond reach of invasion.

The Delaware was fresh from the woods and knew nothing of the existing war. He had a horse-load of beaver hides, the first I had ever seen. Our men soon came on from the Prairie with the balance of our cattle, and next morning we swam the river and moved on with them.

I recall a remark of Hugh Childers here which, while it was droll and original, seemed almost prophetic in the light of subsequent events. He called out to us to hurry, for said he, "I smell the Mexicans now!" Sure enough, we just did get away in time for the very next day Cos' division ran Williamson's company out of Bastrop, taking possession of all cattle and everything that had been left there.

This, the First Run-away Scrape as it was justly called, ruined the prospects of our people and left us literally broken up. In the first place, most of the men were in the army, and wagons or ways of transportation were very scarce indeed. When we reached the families at Old Washington on the Brazos with our cattle, we found them in great alarm and confusion, having heard that the Mexicans were at Bastrop.

Immediately the work of moving commenced, and such moving! That spring of '36 was the wettest I ever knew. First, after crossing the Brazos, we had to raft across two or three bayous, and all along we worked to our knees in mud and water. It was pitiful and distressing to behold the extremity of the families, as some times a team would bog down, and women with their babes in their arms, surrounded by little children, had to wade almost waist deep in places. It took us a whole day to traverse that Brazos bottom, a distance of only four miles!

As soon as we reached "high and dry" land, we camped, and after one day's rest, struck out for the Sabine—getting near the United States. The road was simply terrible and upon reaching the Trinity at Robbins' Ferry, we found that stream five miles wide and the bank was literally lined with families waiting to be crossed over, there being only one small ferry boat, and following the old just rule of "first come, first served", we had to wait a week before our turn came to be put across.

Just as we were getting on the ferry boat, we heard the news of the Battle of San Jacinto on the 21st of April, but doubts were entertained as to its truth, there being so many false alarms flying through the country all the time. Going on five or six miles further, however, we learned the particulars of the battle—the capture of Santa Anna, etc., which relieved us from present dread of Mexican troubles.

After a week's rest, the refugee families scattered, some going further east, while a few, among them my mother, came back to our same old home in Bastrop County on the Colorado.

We found two houses in the town of Bastrop burned, and the country sacked of everything except a few hogs. We had a pretty hard struggle getting along about then and I remember, we found a rare treat in a few peas that had been left at the McGehee place.

It was now about the last of May, but the settlers hustled around and soon had good prospects for a late crop. Then we occasionally had good beef. Some of the settlers, among whom were those of Messrs Hornsby, Duty and Rogers, moved out of Bastrop on to their respective localities above, and were trying to make a late crop. But now after a singular season of quiet in that quarter, Indian troubles began once more. The first tragedy occurred in the Hornsby neighborhood.

Messrs Williams, Haggard and three Hornsby brothers were at work in a field about a half mile from old Mr. Hornsby's house. Williams and Haggard were working some distance apart from the Hornsby boys, and seeing a band of ten or fifteen Comanches riding up, were naturally alarmed, but as they came nearer, they saw the warriors bore a white flag, which was always a token of friendly intentions. They therefore stood, and were brutally shot down, after which the wretches made a rush for the Hornsby brothers who ran for life, swam the river and lay concealed in the bottom till dark, then crawled cautiously up to their home, expecting to find its inmates all dead, and Indians perhaps still there. Upon their approach, they found everything quiet. Fearing some trick, they hesitated a moment, then by way of venture, threw a stick at the house, whereupon their father spoke, and upon going in, there was indeed a joyful meeting, for all were safe. Immediately after this, occurred a second murder, equally cruel and unprovoked, and of course, the excitement and alarm increased among our citizens.

Mr. Hornsby, in moving back into his home after the Run-away Scrape, had thoughtfully taken a supply of ammunition and it becoming generally known, the neighbors would frequently go to him for ammunition.

Jim Craft, Joe Rogers and another man had been there for ammunition and were on their way home. In a mile of Joe Duty's house, they looked back, and saw a band of Comanches, charging in full speed upon them. There was a terrible race and they at length took over Joe Rogers and killed him with a lance in sight of the house.

Again, Mr. Roarer went out to saddle his horse and was shot at his own gate by an Indian who had crawled up and awaited his opportunity. At the firing of the gun, thirty or forty Indians ran off.

The excitement at length became so intense, and the Indians so bold in their out-rages, that all the families again left their homes and got together in Bastrop. Men went out from town in armed squads, and worked their farms together, still tugging away at their late crops. Even this did not afford security from the savages however, who seemed constantly on the alert.

Matthew Duty and Make Hornsby were driving cattle into Bastrop. Noticing the cows in front raise their heads and give sign of seeing something unusual, they suspected that Indians were coming, and just did get home in time to escape a band of Indians, who were pursuing hard behind them.

Soon after this Matthew Duty, who belonged to a squad working the Duty Neighborhood, rode out one evening to look over the crop. He was just out of sight, when guns were heard and in a minute his horse was seen coming back at full speed, without his rider. Blood upon the saddle but corroborated the dark truth suggested by the shots, and runners springing upon their horses broke for Bastrop. A squad of men went out and found him killed and scalped.

In the midst of all the excitement and horror of these Indian outrages, news came to us of another Mexican invasion at hand. A fresh panic at once seized the families, and we had the Second Run-away Scrape.

All of the families had gone in this escapade except the Woods, Berrys and HARRISES, and they had crossed the river and camped at the Cunningham place about fifteen miles below Bastrop.

At sun-rise next morning, eighteen or twenty Comanches stampeded the horses, running them off, and one of our men, Aleck Harris, barely escaped being taken by them. Realizing the danger of the route, they decided not to go on by the Gotier Trace, as first intended, but to come back and go down the river to La Grange.

Arriving at the Barton place, three men, among whom was Monde Woods, had to go back to the Cunningham place for stock, or something that had been left behind. When about three quarters of a mile from the house, they heard loud calling and screaming from their friends there, and on looking back, found that the Indians were behind them, having come in between them and the house.

Now came a race for life and a rough race it was, too, for the ground was just newly ploughed. Several shots were fired, though nobody was hurt. We suffered a good deal of uneasiness concerning some friends, Mr. Grassmire and Mrs. Orkenbor, who had already gone down the river in a flat boat, taking what plunder they could to La Grange. We thought the savages would surely find them and kill them, but some how, they, too, escaped and reached their destination in safety.

Some of the Crafts had moved their families into the Cole Settlement in Washington County, and were on their way back to their farms in Craft's Prairie. In three miles of home, coming to what is known as the J. D. Place, a small cabin situated on a bluff belonging to J. D. Morris, they stopped to take lunch. While eating, they heard a low peculiar hum of a song, but could not tell whence it came. It aroused them, however, and they got their guns, when lo, a band of about eighteen Indians came up the hill.

They evidently were not expecting to find white men there, however, for upon seeing them, they whirled and retreated in double-quick time. Old Captain Craft shot and one warrior fell or pretended to fall, then jumped up and ran on, whereupon there was a loud and hearty laugh among them. They stopped across the creek in the Prairie and a few shots were exchanged, when seeing the Indians were too strong for them, the white men retreated. There was a half mile run through an open prairie, then seeing the savages in pursuit, they dodged into a thick post-oak country and escaped unhurt.

This Second Run-away Scrape did not affect us so materially as did the first, for it was not so wet, and then in fifteen or twenty miles of Old Washington, we received news of Mexico's interior war, or war on herself, which quieted our fears from that source, and having brought our cows, etc., with us, we stayed awhile very comfortably. At length, however, Coleman and Billingsley brought companies up the river to protect the families, and we came on to Bastrop, with Coleman's company.

Once more the families stopped in town while the men came out into the Prairie planting and working the farms in squads. In the fall of 1837 three families—Bartons, Allens and Jenkins by name, moved across the river back to their old homes, where they found good crops awaiting them.

Still Indian assault and murder constantly threatened us.

Burleson, having heard nothing from the Gotier family in some time, grew uneasy, and went to see about them, fearing Indian assault.

A terrible sight met their eyes upon arriving there. Five members of the family lay dead, and the rest gone, supposed to be prisoners. I will give the particulars of the horrible affair just as they were given me by a surviving son, who was among the captives.

Old Mr. Gotier and two sons were at work in the field a short distance from the house. Mrs. Crawford, a widowed daughter of Mr. Gotier, was in the house, while the old lady was rendering out lard in the yard, with the children at play near by. She sent a little boy and girl to the creek after water and very soon she saw an Indian coming from the creek, holding the girl by the throat to prevent her screams. They had choked the child until she was bleeding at the nose.

The old lady screamed to Mrs. Crawford, "Jane, the Indians have got your child," and running into the house, she seized one of the guns, which the men had very carelessly gone without. Jane begged her mother to let the gun alone, knowing that if the Indians saw her with it they would kill her, but she raised the gun to fire and was killed in the act.

The men in the field, hearing the gun, rushed in upon the scene and were also killed.

The Indians then captured Mrs. Crawford, two brothers, and little girl three or four years old, and struck out on foot for their village, making the captive woman carry her child and a bundle of salt. She became so tired that she concluded she would have to leave her child, and putting her down, started on, but hearing her call, and looking round, she saw the little one tottering along, trying to follow her. She turned to go back, and the Indians whipped her with quirts, or cowhides, to her child and back—literally cutting the flesh with their blows.

They kept the unfortunate woman with her two children several years, often treating her most cruelly. At last, however, deliverance came for them. An old trapper by the name of Spaulding found her, bought all of the family from the Indians, and married Mrs. Crawford, bringing them all back to Bastrop.

In the spring of 1839 old Mr. Gideon White with two or three neighbors went out on the head of Wilbarger Creek to kill buffalo. Finding many fresh Indian signs, they came into town and reported. A squad of fourteen men met at what is known as the Wilbarger place, and just as they were starting, received news of the murder of Mrs. Coleman. The particulars were substantially as follows.

She and her little boy five years old were in the garden, while the rest of the family consisting of three children were in the house. A force of one hundred and eight Indians came up and dividing, one band went to Mr. Robinson's house nearby, while the other division came on to Mrs. Coleman's house.

The first thing she knew, the savages were right at her. She started to run, but upon stopping to help her child along, received an arrow in the throat which killed her. She lived however to reach the house, help her son bar the door, and then sitting down upon a chair, fell over dead without a word.

The Indians captured the five-year old boy, who was with her in the garden, but still there were three children in the house, the oldest of whom, Albert Coleman, a lad of fourteen years, deserves to have his name enrolled among the heroes of those bloody times. With two helpless little sisters, he stood above the dead body of his mother, and succeeded in keeping the savages out of the house. They must have supposed there were armed men in the house, which was natural, judging from the number and effect of Albert's shots. He had a breech-loading "Yorger", and as they came up, he shot, then said "I killed one!"

Reloading, he wounded another. They shot into the house at him, striking first the breach of his gun, shattering it and scattering the lead all in the faces of the little girls who stood around him, and at last killed the young hero, whereupon his little sisters ran under the bed. The Indians went round the house and poked their lances through the cracks, trying to kill them. A loud yelling from the other division called them away and the little girls, leaving the house, took to the river bottom and escaped.

Soon forty or fifty men under command of Jacob Burleson, brother of Edward, were on the trail, which they had no trouble in following. The Indians evidently were not afraid, and had made no effort to conceal their whereabouts, doubtless feeling their own strength.

Burleson's force over took them at Brushy Creek, and dismounting, attacked them immediately. The Indians then charged and Burleson ordered a retreat. Coming right on, the savages were very near, running over some of our men before they could reach their horses. Jonathan Burleson, another brother of Edward Burleson, was killed, but no other man was hurt.

On their return march, when they buried Burleson, they found that the savages had cut out his heart. Thus another of our bravest men was sacrificed.

About four miles back on the retreat, they met General Edward Burleson with reinforcements, and at once turned for a fresh charge. In the meantime, the Indians had secured a fine position in a hollow and could not be drawn from ambush. Some of them were well armed and fine sharp shooters. The fight continued until dusk, and might be termed a drawn battle, but during the night, the Indians retreated. Ed Blakey, John Walters and Parson Gilliland, three more of our best citizens, were killed here, leaving dependent and defenseless families.

The Indians kept the little boy of Mrs. Coleman till he was almost grown, when our men bought him from them. He had, however, so imbibed their ideas and habits, that he went back to them, never feeling satisfied among the whites.

Next came the largest and most horrible raid ever made by Indians upon Texas, which resulted in the famous battle of Plum Creek.

A large band of Comanches under the notorious chieftain "Buffalo Hump" took possession of Victoria, then came on down Peach Creek, through a sparsely settled country, burning houses and killing until they came to Lynnvile. They were supposed to have been guided by Mexicans.

On their way they came upon Mr. Foaly and Parson Ponten, who were going across the country to Gonzales. Foaly was riding a very fine race horse, while Mr. Ponten's animal was old and slow. They saw the Indians, about a quarter of a mile off, and whirled to run. The race horse soon bore Foaly far in advance of Ponten, who was fast losing ground. The first Indian swept past him without even turning his head. Foaly on the race horse was evidently the prize upon which he was bending every energy.

The second Indian came on, and in passing, struck him on the head with his spear, he, too, intent upon taking Foaly. A third, as he came, drew his bow and shot, the arrow striking his leather belt with such force as to knock him from his horse, where he lay as if dead, but pondering whether or not he should shoot, his double barreled shot gun being still at his side. He wisely concluded to be still and the rest of the Indians passed him without a pause, doubtless thinking him dead.

As soon as the last one had gone by, he sprang up and crawled into a thicket and there lay hid until they came on back with Foaly, who made a brave run but was caught at last. They chased him (Foaly) to a little creek where they hemmed him in and as a last resort, he dismounted and tried to hide in a water-hole. From the signs, they roped him and dragged him out, and brought him on to the spot where they had left Ponten, seemingly dead. Finding him gone, they made Foaly call him, but of course, no answer came. The cruel wretches then shot and scalped Foaly, and it was that, when found, the bottoms of his feet had been cut off and he seemed to have walked some distance upon the raw stumps.

Captain John Tumblestone immediately raised a squad of forty or fifty men, and taking their plain trail, came upon them on their way out—a large force of between four and five hundred Indians. Our Captain was nothing daunted, however, and ordered our men to fire a charge upon them. He was brave, cool and deliberate, and I have always believed would have whipped out that Indian force if a misunderstanding among the men had not forced him to draw off, with the loss of one man.

We fell in with the Guadalupe men in the edge of Big Prairie, near Plum Creek, about two miles from where Lockhart now stands. We were now ordered to dismount, "lay aside every weight", examine our arms and make ready for battle. Houston's men had gotten in ahead of the Indians, and were lying in a little mot of timber, when they heard the Indians coming on, seemingly ignorant of our close proximity to them, for they were singing, whistling, yelling and indeed making every conceivable noise. Here while awaiting the Indians, we of Burleson's force joined them. A double-file line of march was formed, Burleson's forces from the Colorado, marching about one hundred yards to the right of Houston's men from the Guadalupe, and in sight of the Indians. Four men were sent ahead as viddettes or spies and the rear guard of the Indians, consisting of four warriors, turned and rode leisurely back to meet them. Slowly and deliberately they came on making no sign or move for fight. When within twenty steps of our spies, Col. Schwitzer raised his gun and killed one, whereupon the others beat a hasty retreat for their main force. Burleson ordered us to "spur up", and we rode very fast. We saw confusion in the Indian ranks, which we could not then understand. A squad of men seemed retreating in face of a pursuing band of Indians. They were evidently divided against themselves, or pursuing some other body of men. At length we were discovered by the main force of Indians, who immediately formed a line between us, and their pack mules, stolen horses, etc., where they awaited us.

When in one hundred and fifty yards of this line, we were ordered to dismount and one man of the double file line held both horses, while his comrade shot.

It was a strange spectacle never to be forgotten, the wild, fantastic band, as they stood in battle array, or swept around us with all strategy of Indian warfare. Twenty or thirty warriors mounted upon splendid horses, tried to ride around us, sixty or eighty yards distant, firing upon us as they went. It was a superstition among them that if they could thus run around a force, they could certainly vanquish it.

Both horses and riders were decorated most profusely, with all of the beauty and horror of their wild taste combined. Red ribbons streamed out from the horses tails as they swept around us, riding fast, and carrying all manner of stolen goods upon their heads and bodies. Here was a huge warrior naked, and wearing a stove pipe hat; another wore a fine pigeon tailed cloth coat, buttoned up behind. They seemed to have a talent for finding and blending the strangest, most unheard of ornaments. Some wore upon their heads immense buck and buffalo horns, and one head dress struck me particularly. It consisted of a large white crane with red eyes.

In this run-round, two warriors were killed, and a fine horse. We were now ordered to reload, mount and charge. They at once retreated though a few stood until we were in fifteen steps of them before starting. In the meantime, the same warriors played around us at the right, trying to divide our attention and force, while the main body of Indians retreated, firing as they went.

Burleson, with about twenty-five men, pursued them to within a mile of the San Marcos River, where they played out, and we returned home.

One instance of the hardness and cruelty of some men, even though not savage in form and color, was shown us on this raid.

As was often the case, some squaws were marching in Indian ranks, and one of them had been shot, and lay breathing her last, almost dead, as we came by.

French Smith, with most inhuman and unmanly cruelty, stamped her and then cut her body through with a lance. He was from the Guadalupe; indeed, I do not believe there was a single man from Bastrop who would have stooped to so brutal a deed!

In the spring of 1842, Gen. Vascous captured San Antonio and the news created a great deal of excitement among us. The little signal cannon called us together at Bastrop, and Gen. Burleson took a considerable force to Austin, now a growing place.

The citizens were alive with serious apprehensions, expecting an invading army from Mexico, and as we lay in Austin, awaiting recruits, we could hear innumerable reports of approaching forces. Two divisions were represented as advancing upon us, one by the way of Goliad, another by way of Santa Fe. Burleson dispatched runners, or spies, in every direction to test the truth of these reports, and finally went with his men to San Antonio, which he found in sack-cloth and ashes.

The citizens, being mostly Mexicans, were not hurt, most of the American citizens had run. What a city of devastation and bloodshed has San Antonio ever been! Whatever of invasion and trouble ever visited Texas, this little town seemed to be heart and centre of her suffering, so that she has been well-termed a "battle ground" and a "slaughter pen".

And now we found ourselves once more at home but not safe, for still every now and then we were troubled with Indians and occasionally we went out to bury some one of our citizens who would be surprised whenever the skulking savages could find opportunity to do their dastardly work.

It was almost a constant thing to wake and find our horses stolen and all pursuit or effort to regain them useless. Sometimes, however, our little runs after the thieves were interesting and exciting, although we might not catch thieves or regain horses! I remember one run early in the year 1843 during a very cold spell; we had quite an amusing little run!

A lot of horses having been stolen, 18 or 20 men under Jonathon Burleson went out in pursuit. We trailed them over their same old route to their same old pass-way. From every sign, they had evidently been in no hurry and had a strong force. The first night out, we camped on Onion Creek, very near to where they had camped on their way out only a night or two previous.

It was severely cold and we built a large, bright fire and indulged in the free and easy merry-making life of a camp until very late. We had a fine singer in our party, James Patton, and his splendid voice entertained us through many a song as we lay basking in the genial light and warmth of the camp fire.

At last, the silence of night pervaded the woods and we slept very soundly. Meanwhile we had tied our horses near and guards were stationed round them.

Suddenly we were aroused by a struggling and kicking among our horses and then came a scattering and flying of fire round and over us.

In an instant we had our guns in our hands, thinking the Indians were upon us. The guards soon explained the cause of the disturbance. One of the horses having been entangled in his rope, had fallen into our camp fire.

One of our men was by far the most terribly frightened a man as I ever saw. When the excitement first arose, he rushed into a nearby thicket, leaving his gun and comrades, and lay there afraid to move or speak, till the alarm had subsided. Then we heard moans and groans from the brush, and recognizing his voice, we called to him and assured him the danger and Indians were not near. He was literally scared into a shaking ague and the next day, candidly confessed himself entirely unfit for Indian campaigning and very truly said he did not believe he could stand the "racket" of such a life.

Next morning found us on the plain trail which we followed easily, constantly finding signs of their camps every ten or fifteen miles. We began to have strong hopes of over taking them and regaining our horses.

One night we camped with a well laid plan to make a raid on the morning, feeling confident of speedy and certain success. Half of the company, however, surprised and disconcerted us next morning, by announcing their determination to quit and go home.

A serious division and difficulty arose among the men, and many "waxed warm and wrathful" feeling inclined to support their opinions with blows. As is always the case, our divided forces lost both power and design, and abandoning further pursuit, we retreated, retracing our steps homeward.

Arriving at the scene of our horse alarm, we again camped and again Mr. Patton sang for us, but just as he was in the midst of a low comic song entitled "The Cork Leg", our guards reported a noise like that of retreating Indians. The fire was instantly extinguished and we had our guns ready for action. Nothing further being heard, however, we concluded that the men were mistaken, and after resting through the night in peace, we came on home next morning without even investigating for fresh Indian signs.

That was a piece of criminal carelessness and negligence, which we afterwards regretted, for on the following day, two of our men, while out hunting, were surprised and killed by a band of

Comanches numbering about 30, who came along on our immediate trail. So we knew that our guards had doubtless been correct in thinking that they heard the muffled sound of their march somewhere near us.

The two unfortunate men seemed to have fought most desperately, for there were signs of a terrible struggle—a broken gun showing hand to hand fighting. They were given time to find shelter under a bluff and thus protected, they were able to prolong their lives, but against such odds, they were soon killed.

Bastrop County As A Part Of Texas History

Miss Grace Fitzwilliam

The earliest Spanish expedition in what is now Bastrop County was made in 1691 by the expedition of Domingo Teran de los Rios. The trail he blazed in that year across Texas became the Old San Antonio Road. Other Spanish expeditions entered Texas before and after 1691, but they did not touch the Bastrop area. However one of these earlier expeditions, that of Alonso de Leon in 1690, caused the exploration led by Teran. Because La Salle had built a fort near Matagorda Bay and thus aroused Spanish fears of a French invasion, De Leon made five attempts at exploring and colonizing Texas. On his fifth expedition, following the coast route later to be known as the La Bahia or Lower Road, he reached East Texas. There near the present town of Weches in Houston County he established the mission of San Francisco de los Tejas, under the supervision of Father Domian Mansanet, a missionary eager to teach the Texas Indians.

In order that a more direct route might be established from the interior of Mexico to this mission in East Texas and to others that De Leon and Mansanet recommended, Teran de los Rios was instructed by the Conde de Galvez, viceroy of New Spain, to make an expedition into Texas.

This Domingo Teran de los Rios was a man of considerable military and administrative experience. Before he came to Mexico in 1681 as a deputy of the consulado (trading company) of Sevilla, he had been in the Spanish service in Peru for twenty years. He had been also a captain of infantry in the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa and, in 1686, was made governor of Sonora and Sinaloa, where he was successful in quelling Indian disturbances. In January, 1691, he was appointed governor of the province of the Tejas and adjacent regions. It was as governor as well as explorer that he first saw the Colorado River in present Bastrop County.

Teran was given specific instructions for his Texas expedition. One requirement was to keep a record of the journey, especially a record of the geography, natives, and products of the regions traversed. Another was to investigate rumors of foreign settlements on the coast. His expedition was to be supported by a maritime one. Two ships loaded with supplies and carrying a complement of fifty soldiers were to sail from Vera Cruz to Matagorda Bay (La Bahia del Espiritu Santo). Teran was instructed to halt at a suitable camping place and send a detachment to the coast to meet the ships. The fifty soldiers on board along with the supplies would be transferred to his force, which thus augmented would proceed to East Texas. The ships were to sail from Vera Cruz a month after Teran began his march.

Accordingly, he set out from Monclova, Coahuila, May 16, 1691, with his expedition composed of fifty soldiers, ten priests (among them Father Mansanet) and three lay brothers. Teran followed the old route as far as the Rio Hondo, but at that point he struck out directly across the country toward the East Texas mission.

On June 26, 1691, the expedition reached the Colorado River, which Teran renamed the San Pedro y San Pablo. Dr. Carlos E. Castaneda, professor of history at the University of Texas in his great study of Spanish rule in Texas, *Our Catholic Heritage*, vol. 1, p. 365 to 366, says "just where they struck this river cannot be definitely ascertained, but it seems it was below present Austin some ten or fifteen miles south". If that is the case, Teran reached the Colorado in the Webberville area in Travis County or just over the line in Bastrop County.

The following extract from his diary shows that from that spot he moved down river some twenty miles and spent at least three weeks in the area while he waited for Captain Martinez to return with supplies from the ships in Matagorda Bay. Father Mansanet's diary gives even more details of the exploration and identifies the region as present Bastrop County.

Itinerary and Daily Account Kept by General Domingo de Teran, Begun May 16, 1691, Finished April 15, 1693.

"June 26, our royal standard was moved toward the east a quarter northeast. After going four

leagues, a camp was made on the banks of an Arroyo, which contained a considerable amount of water. In preceding journeys it had been called the San Marcos and Colorado on various routes. At this time it was named San Pedro y Pablo Apostoles. The land, as well as the timber which beautified it, was like that at San Juan Bautista (Eagle Pass). We stopped here on the 27th and 28th of the said month, due to the exhausted conditions of our small stock.

"On the 29th, the day of San Pedro y San Pablo Apostoles, having been celebrated with unusual rejoicing in cooperation with the Fathers of the Holy Evangel (the ten priests on the expedition), our royal standard moved forward and together we crossed the river twice—the passage being a league apart. For this reason I halted the march in order that the small stock might rest on the 30th.

"On July 1st, the general review of the year was held. Our standard and camp moved forward from the second crossing in a southerly direction. After marching six leagues (18 miles) over a rough and wooded country, our camp was set up at a third crossing of the river the banks of which were made beautiful by the same kinds of trees as were at the other fords, especially pecans. We remained here until the 3rd, when according to the orders of the viceroy and in fulfillment of his instructions, Captain Francisco Martinez departed with twenty soldiers from my troops, one hundred and fifty horses, forty mules, the necessary food, ammunition, and, I may add, the proper military equipment and peons to drive them according to instructions. In obedience to the wishes of his Excellency, the march was suspended until the Captain's return. The trip down to Old Fort (La Salle's Fort St. Louis) and back to this camp on the river consumed the time from our arrival on the 3rd until the 19th. . . This time includes the trip down, the stay there, and the return. I may add that they brought back with them two boys of the French nation that the coast Indians obtained for them without any great difficulty, after a little firm yet kind insistence (these French boys were survivors of La Salle's settlement). During the six days sojourn there the Captain found that our vessels had not arrived in that bay, nor on the coast in that region."

On July 21 a council of the Holy Fathers of the Evangel and the Military authorities was held to determine what to do. Teran wanted to send Martinez back to the coast to wait for the ships, but he was outvoted. The council decided to go on to East Texas. Teran wrote in his diary they "compelled me to continue the march on the 22nd." He learned later that the ships came into Matagorda Bay the same day that Martinez left the coast but too late for him to see them.

The diary continues "On the said day, July 22nd of the same year, our royal standard moved forward toward the north, a quarter northeast. After travelling five leagues in the said direction, following a narrow trail with woods on either side we camped upon an arroyo, where there was water in holes only. The surrounding country was filled with buffaloes. Great numbers of them were in the nearby woods, covered with ticks, red bugs, and other vermin."

Diary Kept by the Missionaries Begun May 16 and Finished August 2, 1691.

"Tuesday, June 26. . . After ascending the hills we went east. Between the river and the mountain there is a valley filled with small mesquites. We stopped on the banks of the San Marcos, which the French called the Colorado River because the soil was red and even the water seemed to be. The river has on its banks a great many trees, oaks, cedars, brazil woods and grape vines. There were many buffaloes. This day we travelled five leagues.

"Wednesday, 27. We left the camp on the San Marcos (Colorado) and crossed the river. We then proceeded east over a level country, leaving mountains to our north, while the San Marcos river was to the south of us. After travelling about two leagues (six miles) we crossed the river again, where we looked for a place to set up our camp and found a good one. We travelled this day about three scant leagues.

"In setting out today we had to follow the river with much difficulty, in order to find a place where the stock could swim over. This situation could not be avoided, because to the south there is an impassable mountain which reaches as far as the Guadalupe River, while to the north there is another like it. To find a place suitable for those who had to go down to Bahia del Espiritu Santo (Matagorda Bay) it was necessary to descend the river and look for a less difficult route for the cattle, horses, and other stock.

"Thursday, 28. We did not travel because the preceding night the horses stampeded and in morning fifty-two were missing. That same morning Captain Francisco Sanshez brought in twenty-seven. The other twenty-five were lost. I named this place San Pedro because I said Mass on his day.

"Friday, 29. After mass we left San Pedro and went about two leagues south, a quarter southwest, over level country until we came to a running arroyo. We advanced east over rough country

with arroyos, hills and many trees, pecans, oaks, pines, and grape vines. This day we made more than six leagues and stopped again on the banks of the said river. . . This morning when we set out Captain Sanchez went ahead with five soldiers to see if they could find the horses we had lost, but they were not found and not even a trace of them was seen.

"Saturday, 30. We did not travel because the stock had not arrived at the camping place on the previous day. We stopped on the banks of the river. I named the place San Pablo because we arrived on his day. On the trunk of a tree where we stopped, a hackberry (for this is what it is called in this country) I carved a large cross and the numerals of the year we were there, i.e., 1691.

"Sunday, July 1. After mass we left the place called San Pablo and travelled east about a half league through a forest, among tall trees, cottonwood and oaks. After penetrating the woods about two gun shots distance there is a tall, sharp pointed hill with a steep ascent. On top is a level spot with oak trees but not very thick. From this point there could be seen a level space covered with oak trees, and about a league away there was a lagoon running from north to south. The Indians called this in their language Nenocadadda. The lagoon contains many fish and alligators. From this point the woods on the San Marcos (Colorado) River which was near could be seen. To reach the river from the said lagoon one proceeds north-east. This day we were hunting a better ford for the herds. We went three leagues. . .

"Tuesday, 3. After mass, Captain Don Francisco Martinez set out for Bahia del Espiritu Santo. He took 20 soldiers and 8 herdsmen, 150 horses and 50 pack mules, some loaded and some unloaded to transport whatever cargo was secured from the vessels. All of them were to be used to bring back the soldiers that his excellency, Conde de Galvez, Viceroy and Captain General of this New Spain, had sent by sea in vessels which were secured by his order in Vera Cruz. We remained on the other side of the San Marcos (Colorado) River waiting for Captain Don Francisco Martinez to return with the soldiers he had taken and those who were to land from the vessels. We did not go on because the soldiers who remained were not sufficient to drive the stock and herds that were left.

"Monday 2. We crossed the San Marcos (Colorado) River in safety, thanks to God, and stopped on the other side of the river in a level spot where there was good pasture for the cattle and horses. Near the river were many springs of cold water, but that of the river itself was very hot and muddy.

"Saturday, 21. We left . . . the river and travelled north over level country where there were many oak woods. About five leagues away we could see a tall hill with heavy woods toward the northeast. After marching for a league directly towards this hill, we entered an unwooded section and stopped at the summit of a mount which lies to the northward. Here there is a dry arroyo that has some water holes. . . This day we went seven leagues."

This diary, addressed to the Viceroy, is signed Fray Damion Mansanet and ends with the phrase "written at your Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, August 20, 1691". This phrase indicates that when Mansanet mentions "the other side of the river", he means the west side of the Colorado. The lagoon he describes has been identified as Shipp's Lake, on the southern edge of present Smithville. Although the lake is now almost dry, those who remember it fifty years ago declare it was filled with water and many kinds of fish, including alligators, the pines encountered in the rough country apparently were on the west side of the river. Of course the Lost Pines that distinguish the Bastrop area are on the east side beyond the town of Bastrop. But there are today a few large pine trees on the west banks of the Colorado in what used to be the W. T. and W. E. Goodman ranch, in that part of the county known as McKinney Roughs. Springs of cool water are found on both sides of the river throughout the county; Burleson Springs within a few miles of Bastrop and the spring at the foot of Pine Street are only two of them. No one has reported finding the hackberry with 1619 carved on it. Had Father Mansanet selected the more enduring oak or pecan, his landmark might have been discernable today. Later in the diary he reveals that the stampede was caused by Indians. He was so eager to arrive at the East Texas mission to begin his work that he quarreled with Teran about the delay. This may account for the fact that he and his missionaries left the Colorado on July 21, a day ahead of the main body of the expedition. More than a hundred years later, the trail blazed by these explorers became the Military Road leading from San Antonio de Bexar to Nacogdoches, but in the summer of 1691, when Teran crossed the wilderness of Texas, neither San Antonio nor Nacogdoches existed.

Bibliography: William E. Dun, Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United States, 1678-1702; Handbook of Texas, vol. II; Mattie A. Hatcher (translator), "The Expedition of Don Domingo Teran de los Rios".

Nicholson House Destroyed By Fire Sept. 10, 1899

(From the Advertiser September, 1899)

About 10 o'clock Sunday night, Sept. 10th, 1899, the old Nicholson House was discovered in flames, and the shrill cry of fire! fire! accompanied by pistol shots, soon brought out hundreds of people, who reached the scene too late to render successful assistance in extinguishing the flames. The fire originated in the west ell, rapidly spreading over the entire building. The fire-boys were promptly on hand, but there was not sufficient force on at the Water and Electric plant to sound the fire alarm which was not sounded for 10 or 15 minutes after the first alarm was given. Water was not thrown on the building from the fact the nearest fire plug was at the Power house, some two or three hundred yards distant.

The main building was two-story, with two ells, one extending west, used for dining room and kitchen, the other ell extending north, several rooms, used for sleeping apartments.

Mr. J. P. Erwin was sitting up with Mr. John Hearn, at residence north of the building, in full view. He says he saw the fire when it first broke out. It flashed up as from an exploded lamp, or if oil had been scattered over the rooms, and in almost a moment the rooms and entire ell were enveloped in flames, rapidly extending to all parts of the building. He could not leave Mr. Hearn to give the alarm. He is of the opinion that the sudden flash, and rapid spread could not have been without the aid of oil or some other explosive substance. Mr. Fowler, who lives just north of the building says he has often seen lights burning at night in the part of the building where the fire originated.

Mr. David Fitzwilliam, living six miles south of west from Bastrop, says he was taking a drink of water on his gallery and saw the flash, which he thought was the Power house. It was about fifteen minutes afterward, he says, before he saw the house on fire.

It was scarcely twenty minutes from the time the fire was first discovered until the upper floor and roofing fell in. The old building made a pretty fire, lighting the surrounding country for miles around. From the observatory on the top of Dr. Luckett's residence, we are told, the scene was grand. For twenty or more miles around, the farm-houses, fences, stock, etc., could be seen distinctly, all in the bright glare of light from the burning building, presenting a beautiful sight to look upon.

HISTORY OF THE OLD BUILDING

The old Nicholson House was first a one-story building erected sometime about 1838, by James Nicholson, long since deceased. It was built for a hotel, or boarding house, the owner, in connection with the hotel doing a mercantile business in the town. For very many years it was the principal hotel of the town, and before and after the civil war, the stage stand, where passengers traveling over the Sawyer, Swisher & Hall stage line took their meals when passing through Bastrop.

The oldest inhabitant of the town at this time cannot tell when the first building was erected. One of the oldest citizens, a lady, remembers the building as far back as 1840. It was then a small one-story building, the dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. James Nicholson, who "took in boarders."

About the year 1856, the one-story was raised to a two-story and the north ell built, made necessary on account of the increased business of the house. Mr. George Orts, who had then but recently located in the town, was one of the carpenters who assisted in the building of these additions.

In the early days of Bastrop, the Nicholson House was known far and wide, as one of the best feeders in all Texas, made more famous by the hospitality and careful attention of mine host and hostess.

It was here where the great legal lights, John Hancock, Alexander Terrell, John Ireland, Gen. N. G. Shelley, Major C. S. West, E. M. Pease, Jack Hamilton, O. S. Odom, James Rivers, "Tige" Chandler, James Mayfield, Judge Chambers, Judge Williamson, and other prominent men of the legal profession, when in attendance upon District Court at Bastrop found rest for their over-taxed minds and wearied bodies.

It was here where Sam Houston found a "home of rest" when visiting the old town. It was within these walls that Jones Rivers and Colonel Phil Claiborne would meet, tell their yarns and make the welkin ring with merry laughter and loud yawns. Caton and Adolph Erhard spent their childhood days in this old house. Their parents dying when they were quite young, Uncle Jimmy and wife took them in charge, looking after their welfare until they were old enough to take care of themselves. It was here where was spread the many fine ball suppers, the galleries being used for dancing halls, where the beauty and chivalry for fifty miles around, honoring the occasion with their presence, would "trip the light fantastic" to

the stirring music of "Dose Do." It was here where many Masonic suppers were enjoyed by the brethren of the Mystic-tic, their families and their friends. It was at this hotel where the newly married people of the town would spend the first months of their married life—John M. Finney and wife, Pompey Powell and wife, Jas T. Nolan and wife, Pas R. Turner and wife, Wm. J. Cain and wife, Joe C. Sims and wife, J. B. Lubbock and wife, T. C. Biddle and wife, Mr. Forshea and wife; others we cannot readily call to mind. Very few of the men whose names are mentioned in this article are now living, nearly all have passed "over the river," and are resting "under the shade trees beyond." Even those grand old people, mine host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. James Nicholson, have long since been "gathered unto their father."

The fame of this old hotel is not lost even at this date. Persons living in distant states who knew the old place in its palmiest days, when meeting one from Bastrop, often inquire about the old hotel and its clever landlord.

Some fifteen or more years ago, age advancing upon the people, and not caring to further weary with its conduct, they closed its doors to the public, and at their death it became the property of their eldest daughter, Mrs. McDowell. A short time since she sold it to Mr. Will Nash, who had the building repaired and put in order for a family residence, and had brought in a part of his household effects preparatory to moving in, all of which together with a costly lot of carpenters' tools were destroyed by the fire Sunday night.

There was no insurance on the building or contents.

FROM THE ADVERTISER ISSUE OF FEB. 9, 1892

S. T. Cain has bought the Elgin Courier, Miles H. Hill, retiring. Tom, here's our hand, may you and the Courier live long and prosper.

Capt. Batts, assignee has brought part of the Fawcett & Sayers stock of goods to Bastrop and selling them off at cost in the Reynolds building, with Bob Hubbard and Ed Batts as salesmen.

The hope of an artesian well at Bastrop is doomed to disappoint. After sinking a hole about a thousand feet work was abandoned, at a loss of \$1300 to the Bastrop Loan and Investment Company and about \$2000 to the contractor.

Tom Osborn killed the fatted calf Wednesday. It was home raised, stall fed, and at 14 months netted 216 pounds. Tom is having it pickled for use in the Iron Front Restaurant.

Mrs. Delia Reynolds and Mrs. T. J. Trigg, went up to Taylor to attend the dedication of the \$13,000 Christian church at that place, returning to Bastrop Monday.

Elder B. B. Sanders will dedicate the new Christian church at Elgin tomorrow. We learn that quite a number of members of the Bastrop church, weather permitting, will go up to Elgin in the morning, attend the dedication and return on the evening train.

J. W. Norment, an old Confederate soldier, died at the Confederate Home, Austin. He was a native of Virginia, and lived in this county several years, with Capt. J. J. Moncure.

Contractor Martin certainly believes not in weak or sandy foundations. He works on the plan that a solid foundation makes a firm and lasting house. Such a foundation as he is making for the new jail is something never before seen in Bastrop.

Miss Emma Billieson of Austin came down to attend the Masquerade Ball at the Opera house Monday night.

Following is the program of the meeting of the Histrionic club at Opera house, Saturday night, Jan. 30th, 1892.

Judge Garwood	Opening Address
Jack Jenkins and Miss L. Cain	Duett
Rob Grimes	Stump Speech
Miss Laura Jones	Recitation
Miss Laura Cain	Selection
Oliver Jones	Oration
Miss B. Moore	Paper on Shakespeare
Will Thompson	Selection
Miss Lillie Webb	Recitation
W. J. Millsap	Song
Miss Ruthe McDowall	Music
Judge Moore	Oration on Style
Mrs. M. McDowall	Music
Miss Blanche Garwood	Selection
Roy Grimes	Oration
Miss Nano Maynard	Selection
Miss Ada Grimes	Selection
Judge Siddall	Closing Remarks
Public Invited.	

1888 Marks Founding Of First Baptist Church

Rev. Oliver W. Sumerlin

When cotton was selling for four cents per pound, and pecans for three; when a "good" suit of clothes could be had for four dollars, and chickens (frying size) brought one dollar and twenty-five cents per dozen; when the chief sources of entertainment in Bastrop were to be had in the "Best from Broadway" at the Opera House, and in the public hangings at the County Jail, later to be described in the Bastrop Advertiser in all of their excruciating and agonizing detail; when the pastor of the First Methodist Church was complaining that people did not go to church as they once did "in the good old days," only an even one-hundred being present at the last Wednesday night prayer meeting; in those days—1888 to be exact—the First Baptist Church was organized in the city of Bastrop.

Those must have been rather turbulent and rough-and-ready days as the Twentieth Century drew near. One year after its organization the pastor put a notice in the Bastrop Advertiser announcing a Revival Meeting. He said, "We are not expecting any trouble, and as far as I am concerned, there won't be any." There is no member of the church at that time now living so it is hard to tell just what he had in mind. One may hazard a guess however from a statement in the Bastrop Advertiser at about that period. It came from the pastor of the First Methodist Church. He was complimenting his church on its good behaviour. He stated that he had been pastoring this church for two years and there had been no serious disturbance in the Worship Service from any of the larger boys! Truly, things have changed for the better in all directions. During the last decade of the Nineteenth Century, some rules for church etiquette were printed in the Church Column of the Bastrop Advertiser. The men were reminded not to spit tobacco juice across the aisles at the spittoons.

One cannot write the history of any people and fail to take recognition of the religion of that people, how it has influenced their lives, and how, in turn, it has been acted upon and influenced by all the factors with which they were confronted.

The pioneers who established homes in the Texas wilderness brought with them only the bare essentials with which to begin. The saddle bags, the ox cart, and the covered wagon could bring no more. But the people were big-hearted, and they brought a big-hearted religion. The embellishments were few however, for there was no place to carry them. For Christianity to get established, and to grow, it had to contend with all the hostile forces which the pioneers faced in their battle for existence and expansion. In addition, as always, it had to face the forces peculiarly hostile to it, which breed in the hearts of men.

Although the Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, and Christian churches were all organized prior to the First Baptist Church, the area surrounding Bastrop is rich in early Texas Baptist history. The first Baptist church of any kind actually organized in Texas was organized within the original township of Bastrop, then known as Mina, which, on paper, was many miles larger than the limits of present Bastrop. This Baptist church was the Providence Primitive Church and was located on the Colorado River, some twelve or fifteen miles below the present location of Bastrop. It began with six members, and was organized on March 29, 1834 by Elder Abner Smith, a preacher strongly opposed to missions.

Baptists in America at this time were in division over this subject, and most of the early Texas Baptist pioneers came from sections where the question of missions was being seriously agitated. It was the time when the mission work of William Carey, and especially of Judson and Rice, was stirring the hearts of Baptists all over the United States.

Though this church was "anti-missionary," the first sermon preached in Providence Church of which any record can be found, was preached by Z. N. Morrell in 1838, a strong missionary preacher who had come to Texas from Tennessee in 1835. The old Providence Church lasted forty or more years before disbanding.

The first Missionary Baptist preacher to be ordained in Texas was Richard Ellis. The Hopewell Baptist Church in Fayette County ordained him in August, 1842, at the request of the Macedonia Baptist Church (now Webberville). Z. N. Morrell, and R. E. B. Baylor (after whom Baylor University was named) composed the presbytery.

Out of these antecedents, the First Baptist Church was organized. The church records prior to 1911 have been lost. The writer has begun a search through old newspaper records and the like in an attempt to reconstruct this lost portion, but the work has not progressed enough to be of much benefit for this paper. Information has been gathered from some of the older members.

Before the organization of the First Baptist Church it appears that Baptists would meet from time to time in various homes for worship whenever an itinerate preacher of the faith should be present. When none was available, they worshipped with the other churches.

The First Baptist Church probably began as a "quarter-time church," that is, preaching services were held once a month, with the Church meeting for Sunday School on the other Sundays of the month. The Saturday evening preceding the "Preaching Sunday" was "Conference Night." During this period the business of the Church was transacted. Later the Church became "half-time," with preaching twice a month. About 1922 the church became a "full time" church.

The original building was a one-room frame structure with a high steeple. It occupied the place where the home of Mrs. R. J. Griesenbeck, 908 Pecan Street, now stands.

Other early members were Mrs. S. J. Orgain, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Morris, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Dyer, Mrs. K. M. Trigg, Sr., Mrs. James Moore, R. W. Hubbard, Miss Annie Hubbard, Mrs. R. A. Brooks, Mrs. Bettie Price, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Moncure, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Norment, Mrs. Kate Turner, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Craft, Preston Dyer, R. F. Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Ross Green, Mrs. W. J. Miley and Jeff D. Ray.

Mrs. A. L. Brooks, (nee Miss Annie Hubbard) a present member of the First Baptist Church, joined in 1891. She moved away in 1899 and became a member of the First Baptist Church, Harlingen, Texas, where she continued for thirty-five years. She now makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Trigg, Bastrop, her nephew and niece.

Mrs. R. A. Brooks, 602 Pecan, former post-mistress of the city of Bastrop, came to Bastrop in 1892 and joined the First Baptist Church in 1894. She has been a continuous member for these sixty-one years.

Mrs. W. J. Miley is living in Midland, Texas. She remembers when the "saddle-bag" preachers were entertained in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Green.

In 1930, Mr. and Mrs. Hartford Jenkins donated some property on the corner of Water Street and Farm Street for a new church building. The original building was razed and the lumber used in constructing the present building. The present church building is of brick, and has a basement, with a second floor behind the Sanctuary. The new church was dedicated on the second Sunday in June, 1930 after six months of construction.

A sister Church, the Mexican Baptist Church of Bastrop, joined with the members of the First Baptist Church and donated much in the way of labor to insure its completion. At the time of its erection, the Rev. J. W. Milton was pastor. The Building Committee was composed of Leslie D. Williams, Hartford Jenkins, Sr., and S. L. Brannon, Sr.

In 1922, Mrs. S. J. Orgain purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Elzner, 1701 North Main, and gave it to the Church as a parsonage. Recently the parsonage has been reconducted and the kitchen remodelled. The Rev. W. J. Earles was the first pastor to occupy this home.

Some of the pastors of the early days, whose names are recalled, were Dr. Reding Andrews, D. J. H. Pace, the Rev. R. F. Gibson, and the Rev. Coward, a circuit riding bachelor.

The records maintained since 1911 show the following pastors:

Rev. I. T. Barker, 1911
Rev. L. D. Hornberg, 1913
Rev. L. E. Strickland, 1914
Rev. Harley Smith, 1919
Rev. C. M. Murphy, 1920
Rev. Lee, 1921
Rev. W. J. Earles, 1922
Rev. R. S. Garrard, 1923
Rev. Paul C. Bell, 1925
Rev. Solon L. Cole, 1928
Rev. J. W. Milton, 1929
Rev. J. A. Derrick, 1931
Rev. T. R. Thomas, 1936
Rev. Louis Wunneburger, 1938
Rev. Bonnie Grimes, 1940
Rev. John Allen, 1943
Rev. Paul Vercher, 1947
Dr. Odis Rainer, 1950
Rev. Oliver W. Sumerlin, 1953—

Four of the former pastors, the Rev. R. S. Garrard, the Rev. Bonnie Grimes, the Rev. C. F. Gibson, and the Rev. Paul C. Bell, are buried in the Fairview Cemetery, Bastrop.

The Rev. Paul C. Bell established the Mexican Baptist Church in Bastrop as a seminary for student preachers. The Seminary operated for a number of years. The Church continues on in growth. The present pastor is the Rev. George Saenz.

One of the former pastors, the Rev. Harley Smith, has been a missionary in Brazil for nearly forty years. Dr. Odis Rainer is retired. During his fruitful ministry, the sanctuary of the church was renovated and placed in its present condition.

Recently the Church authorized the Building and Finance Committee to draw plans and specifications for an Educational Annex to be constructed

in the rear of the present building. A building fund for this purpose has been set up and contributions are being received. Shortly, the plans and specifications will be presented to the Church for its action.

Special acknowledgement is made to the Bastrop Advertiser, and to S. L. Brannon, Sr., for making available much of the information contained in this, The First Baptist Church Story.

MRS. ELZNER PRESIDENT OF FIRST EPISCOPAL GUILD

By Mrs. G. B. Mack and Mrs. S. L. Brannon Jr.

In 1938, during the time Mr. John Phillips served as rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, he decided that the Church needed a special organization to take care of the altar. The young matrons of the church also needed to have some part in church activities. So with these two purposes in mind, Mr. Phillips, assisted by Miss Neil Fitzwilliam, organized the Altar Guild, as it was then called.

Some of the charter members were Mrs. Bernice Hasler Jenkins, Mrs. Marcia Griesenbeck Elzner, Mrs. Sue Cummings Hayne, Mrs. Berniece Crysup Brooks, Mrs. Nell Rose Schaefer Turner, Mrs. Leona Kabensburg Cowan, Mrs. Lillian Dawson Waugh, Mrs. Blanche Mack, Miss Nell Fitzwilliam. The group met at the Rectory and elected Mrs. Marcia Elzner as the first president. The duties of the Altar Guild members consisted of placing the correct hanging and linens and candles on the altar, cleaning the communion vessels and other brass, arranging communion a d flowers for the altar.

The members soon learned to execute their duties, but they also learned that the church was sadly in need of hangings, linens, and a number of other supplies.

The ladies set about to raise funds to supply these needs by having dinners, rummage sales and various other methods. The organization continued to function in this manner—raising money and attending to the altar until 1940—when Mr. Cook was rector of Calvary Church.

Mr. Cook pointed out to the Guild members that an Altar Guild was supposed to function only for the purpose of attending the altar and not to raise money. The members elected to continue as a dual purpose organization, and to re-organize.

During a meeting at the home of Mrs. Corinne Powell, the Altar Guild became St. Margaret's Guild, and Mrs. R. H. Brieger was elected the first president. The name St. Margaret was chosen in memory of the only English woman to be canonized since the Norman conquest. St. Margaret is remembered for her great acts of justice and mercy during a brutal, turbulent period.

St. Margaret's Guild continued to function as an Altar Guild and to raise funds for its various supplies. Besides this, the Guild has numerous times bought Sunday School supplies, and paid the expense of Church School parties, Vacation Bible School, the library for children, etc. The largest single project the group has completed was the remodeling of the rectory at a cost of \$7,000, the money being raised, chiefly, through cake sales and church bazaars.

In 1953, Mrs. R. H. Brieger was president, and a silver tea was held in the home of Mrs. Sam J. C. Higgins. Mrs. J. V. Ash Jr. served as president, with Mrs. Lloyd Ketha as program leader, using the book, "Worship of the Church". Also that year the Guild distributed dime cards to communicants of the church, and hostesses furnished refreshments for the receptions held after the weekly Lenten services.

The past three years the organization has had a concession at the boat docks during homecoming; annual bazaars and dinners were held with the assistance of the Woman's Auxiliary, and special orders were taken for cakes. The Guild participated in sending cookies once each year to McCloskey Veterans Hospital in Temple, a community wide project sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.

With the proceeds from the various fund raising projects, they have done many worthwhile things, including making substantial contributions to the renovation of the church, buying supplies and linens for the altar, contributing to the annual campaigns of the Red Cross, March of Dimes and others.

The welfare chairman sends cards to the ill or bereaved. Special memorial cards have been printed for use with the Memorial Fund. These cards bear a picture of the church, which was beautifully drawn by Miss Lucille Ash.

President for 1955 is Mrs. J. V. Ash Jr., and the present enrollment includes the following:

Mrs. J. V. Ash Jr., Mrs. S. L. Brannon Jr., Mrs. R. H. Brieger, Mrs. F. Brogniez of Smithville, Mrs. R. Scott Copeland, Mrs. Bower Crider, Miss Mary Jane Davis, Mrs. J. E. Griffith, Mrs. K. E. Jenkins, Mrs. W. R. Kesselus, Mrs. Lloyd Ketha, Mrs. G. B. Mack, Mrs. Harvard McLeod, Mrs. C. G. Rabensburg, Mrs. M. E. Rabensburg, Mrs. B. B. Sanders, Mrs. A. A. Sanders, Mrs. Vernon Schaefer, Mrs. Burris Schaefer, Mrs. W. B. Townsend, Mrs. Alex Waugh, Mrs. Louis Wright.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY BASTROP

(The following recollections of earlier days in Bastrop were written in 1931 in Opelika, Alabama, by Mrs. Minnie Higgins, widow of Erastus Fairbanks Higgins, son of Col. J. C. Higgins. Mrs. D. P. Holland submitted the manuscript to the Advertiser.)

I went to Bastrop in the fall of 1866 to teach in the school taught in the old Military Academy whose principal was Prof. Hood of Seguin.

The faculty consisted of Prof. Hood, with Mr. B. D. Orgain as assistant, who taught the boys downstairs, and I was put upstairs with the girl pupils and with a young girl assistant, and Mrs. C. W. Yellowby as music teacher. The boys and girls went up and down stairs to join the mixed classes.

The Allen Military School had been closed at the beginning of the war, and most of the students who were old enough joined the army. I do not know if Col. Allen owned the Academy, or if it belonged to the town.

My health, which had never been strong, suffered from the strain, and I asked for the position of assistant, so the trustees engaged Mrs. S. J. Orgain to take my place. We taught for the rest of the term together, but I broke down with a severe illness and never resumed my teaching. A year later, the principal resigned from illness.

Mrs. S. J. Orgain had taught in Bastrop for many years, but whether in the Academy or not, I do not know. Nor do I know if the Academy School was the Bastrop Academy which your correspondent says was established in 1840. I do not think Col. Allen ever returned to the Military Academy, but returned to Kentucky after the war.

The James brothers, Col. Charles A. James, Major John James, and Capt. Flemming James, with Major Dinwiddie and Capt. Wise as the additional faculty, came to Bastrop to re-open the Military Academy in 1868, but I don't know if they bought it or rented it. The old student barracks, built by Col. Allen, were still on the Academy grounds and were moved away by the citizens who had paid for the buildings. Col. J. C. Higgins had two rooms which he moved to his home premises.

The James brothers at first boarded with the Proctor family in what is now known as the Pet Fowler home, but a few months later, the Proctors moved away and they took over the house and their parents came from Virginia, and they all lived together. They were a great social addition to the town, as they were well-bred and well educated. They soon had applications to move their school to Austin, and after two or three years, decided to move near Austin as it was healthier and offered greater advantages. The older brother afterwards married a sister of Mrs. J. C. Higgins and this writer. Both Col. James and his wife are dead, and Major John James died in San Antonio last year. There are two other brothers but I don't know their whereabouts.

I don't know anything of Excelsior College, Bastrop Female College, and Colorado Institute. They may have been local schools—some of them perhaps taught by Mrs. S. J. Orgain. I remember she had a private school near the old Baptist Church.

Before I moved to Bastrop, the Presbyterian minister, named Smith, taught a school there and so did Mr. William Gibson. Their wives were sisters. I never heard of the Dixon Military School on Wilbarger Creek, nor have I any knowledge of a Fort in Bastrop.

There was a tannery on the river owned by Mr. Rice, but I supposed he discontinued it. Mr. Rice was the grandfather of Judge Robert Batts of Austin, Mrs. Ella Bell and Dr. Batts of San Angelo. He was a steward of the Methodist Church, who thought it a sin to worship God by machinery, and there was no organ. He always raised the tunes with a tuning fork and lined out the hymns two lines at a time. It was his duty to prepare the communion elements, and often forgot it, and would rush down to Col. Higgins' home nearby to beg some bread or some wine.

The Methodist Church was the only one in Bastrop for several years after I moved there in 1866. It was built by citizens of all denominations and ministers of all faiths preached there, and there was a union Sunday school. I joined a Bible class taught by a rigid Presbyterian, Nelson Burch, who was noted for his eccentricities. The worship there was rather primitive and during revivals was often noisy.

Among the prominent citizens of the town were Col. Wash Jones, who was a prominent lawyer and politician and a member of Congress, a man of . . . keen intellect. Phil Claiborne with a fine mind . . . of good family. C. K. Hall, who, with his brother-in-law and Sam Scott of Austin owned and ran a line of stage coaches from Hempstead at the railroad terminus through Bastrop to Austin and to San Antonio. Austin had no railroad at that time. Later on, Joseph D. Sayers became our most prominent citizen as governor

of our big state, and a U. S. Congressman. Gov. Sayers was one of three young men whom Col. Higgins outfitted for the Civil War and to whom he lent money for his law course after the war was over. He was the oldest son of the family physician and close friend, Dr. David Sayers.

There was no bridge at Bastrop, but the river was crossed by a ferry owned and operated by Mr. Sydney Green, grandfather of Mrs. Than Fowler and Mrs. W. J. Miley of Bastrop. The river was sometimes forded when low, but considered rather dangerous. There was another ferry on the Austin road owned by a Mr. Nash.

I think perhaps Mr. Billingsley of McDade who writes an article in the Advertiser may be able to give some information about Bastrop's early history as he was a pupil in Parson Smith's school, he said in one of his articles, and I hope Mrs. McDowell of Houston can be of real assistance, as she is the oldest former citizen I know. I fear I am too late to be of any help. This is just an untidy sketch of my earliest Bastrop recollections, taking the items on which information was desired. Perhaps a sketch of Col. Higgins' life written by a reporter for the Galveston News when he had been a subscriber for fifty years would be of interest.

Mrs. Holland, when she submitted the above, added that she had recently learned that the lumber in the governor's mansion in Austin came, a hundred years ago, from Bastrop, from the sawmill of her father, Col. J. C. Higgins.

Discoverer Of Pikes Peak Comes To The Colorado

Miss Grace Fitzwilliam

Another American from the United States of the North who traveled across Spanish Texas and recorded his observation in a journal was Zebulon Montgomery Pike, the discoverer of Pike's Peak. Fourteen years ahead of Stephen F. Austin, Captain Pike in command of a small detachment of the United States Army marched east along the Old San Antonio Road and crossed the Colorado River near present Bastrop.

In his journal under the date June 16, 1807, Pike wrote:

"Marched early, and at eight o'clock arrived at Red River (this is the Colorado). Here was a small Spanish station and several lodges of Tan-cards (Tonkaway Indians) tall, handsome men, but the most naked savages I ever saw, without exception. They complained much of their situation. In the afternoon passed over hilly stony land; occasionally we saw pine timber. Killed one deer. Encamped on a small run. Distance 26 miles.

Elsewhere in the journal he further describes the Colorado. "Where the road traverses it, it is at least 150 yards wide, and has a guard of dragoons stationed on its banks. Its waters are of a reddish cast, whence it probably derives its name. The stream is navigable for boats of three or four tons burden."

The run on which he camped 26 miles east of the Colorado has been identified as Yegua Creek.

Pike was leaving Texas at the request of the Spanish authorities. In April, 1806, General James Wilkinson in command of the upper part of Louisiana Territory, newly acquired by the United States, sent Pike on an expedition to explore the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers and to reconnoiter the Spanish settlements in New Mexico. Pike left St. Louis on July 15, 1806, sighted the peak in the Rocky Mountains that bears his name on November 23, and in February, 1807, having missed Red River entirely, reached the Rio Grande. Alarmed by the presence of foreign soldiers within their borders, Spanish officers arrested Pike and his men and took them to Santa Fe and on to Chihuahua to make explanations to Commandante General Antonio Salcedo. Salcedo treated the Americans courteously and finding nothing suspicious in their confiscated papers sent them over the old San Antonio Road to the United States garrison at Natchitoches, Louisiana.

On the Brazos River Pike found a stockade guard of one Corporal and six men. On the Trinity, nearer the frontier over which the Spanish feared an American invasion, was a larger force—"Two captains, two lieutenants, and three ensigns with nearly 100 men, all sick, one scarcely able to assist the other".

These Spanish troops along the San Antonio Road had been placed there by Manuel Antonio Cordero y Bustamante, Spanish governor of the province of Texas. Cordero saw the need for settlements and a defense system in Texas; therefore he recommended military posts on the roads, especially on the road from Bexar (San Antonio) to Nacogdoches. A stronger force was set up in East Texas to counter the large army under General Wilkinson on the neutral ground, disputed territory between Spain and the United States. Spanish Artillery was sent over the San Antonio Road to Nacogdoches.

It was one of these small military posts, consisting of a guard of dragoons, that Zebulon Pike found on the Colorado about where Bastrop is today.

In his Exploratory Travels through the Western Territories of North America . . . and the Northwestern Province of New Spain, published in London in 1811 (pp 336-342) Pike describes the Spanish dragoons of the frontier.

"The dragoons wear . . . a sort of Jack-boot, made of seal leather, to which are fastened spurs by a rivet, the gaffs of which are sometimes near an inch in length. But the spurs of the gentlemen (officers), although clumsy to our ideas, are frequently ornamented with raised silver work on the shoulders and the strap embroidered with silver and gold thread. They are always ready to mount their horses, on which the inhabitants of the Interior Provinces (the northern outlying provinces of Mexico, including Texas) spend nearly half their lives . . . mounted, it is impossible for the most vicious animal to dismount them. They will catch another horse when both are running at full speed, with a noose and hair rope, with which they will soon choke down the beast they are pursuing. In short, they are probably the most expert horsemen in the world."

Fourteen years later when Stephen F. Austin traveled west on the San Antonio Road, he evidently saw no dragoons or Indian huts on the Colorado, for he makes no mention of them in his journal. He found Nacogdoches in ruins. He mentions no soldiers anywhere on the road. In the years that had passed since Pike left Texas, the country had experienced revolt, filibustering expeditions from Louisiana, devastating revolutions, and finally by the treaty of Cordova independence from Spain.

The Spanish dragoons on the Colorado and elsewhere in Texas had disappeared with Spanish rule. Consequently when Austin, the colonizer, came to the place where they had once stood guard in what is now Bastrop, he saw only heavy pine timber on the gravelly ridges, quantities of red grapes on low vines, and abundance of fish in the river.

Bibliography: Z. M. Pike, The Southwestern Expedition of Zebulon M. Pike, edited by Milo Milton Quaife, Chicago, 1925; Handbook of Texas vol. 2; Carlos E. Castaneda, Our Catholic Heritage vol. 5; Bexar Archives.

BASTROP INSTITUTE LISTED IN 1861 ALMANAC

(From Affleck's "Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar" for 1861)

Situated at Bastrop Texas, the Bastrop Military Institute was organized in the year 1857, by Col. R. P. T. Allen, the founder and for many years the superintendent of the Kentucky Military Institute, a distinguished graduate of West Point of the class of 1834, and for some years, a practical engineer.

The charter of the institute confers university powers, and provides that the governor of the state shall be ex-officio inspector of the institute; and that the usual degree shall be conferred by a joint board, composed of the Board of Trustees, a board of visitors on the part of the state, and a board of visitors on the part of the Texas Annual Conference.

The institute was opened for the reception of pupils in September, 1857, and has entered upon the fourth year of its existence with largely increased numbers, and the most gratifying prospects of success.

The peculiar excellency of this institution consists in the very great thoroughness of instruction, and the strictness of its government.

The greatest safeguards are thrown around the morals of the pupils. A member of the faculty is, at all times, present in the campus, and the cadets are, at all hours, under his supervision as officer in charge.

The course of study is unusually full in the Mathematics and Natural Sciences. And Surveying and Civil Engineering are taught practically as a profession.

Bastrop has been unusually healthy even for Western Texas, since the establishment of the Institute, and has had as small a percentage of sickness as any where else to be found.

Col. Allen's method of government has been peculiarly successful, securing the love of the pupil, and, at same time, complete obedience; and throwing around him safeguards and influences entirely unknown in ordinary college life.

He is assisted by an able faculty of four professors and three assistants.

Institute charges, \$230 for the academical year of 40 weeks, for boarding and tuition, including lights, fuel, washing; with a deduction of \$40.00 for cadets pursuing only the elementary English branches.

Bastrop Harmony Club One Of Oldest Federated Clubs In Texas

Music study clubs were organized in Bastrop as early as 1880, and the Bastrop Harmony Club was organized in 1900, and is one of the oldest federated clubs in Texas.

Mrs. O. P. Jones, one of the club's organizers and its only living charter member, is still a member of the club. Mrs. Jones is still active in the club work and is known for her coaching work among young people each year on the piano. At 85, Mrs. Jones at present has 11 musical pupils, among whom are a violin student and an accordion student. The others take piano lessons.

Her piano recitals have attracted music lovers from distant points. Her composition, "The Lone Star State of Texas", is the Harmony Club song. Mrs. Jones was a teacher in the Bastrop Public Schools for many years, and taught music to each elementary grade once each week, before a regular music teacher was employed by the school.

The club colors are red and white, with the rose as the flower, and the motto, "The used key is always bright". Year books of the club's activities are on file and date back to 1904. The 1952-53 year book won first prize at the Fifth District Convention of the Texas Federation of Music Clubs in November, 1952. This year book was dedicated to Mrs. O. P. Jones for her years of loyal service to the club.

The club has many accomplished musicians, among them are Mrs. John Barton, who is a concert pianist and organist, and Mrs. J. K. Young, who is a great granddaughter of Josiah Pugh Wilbarger, early pioneer settler in Bastrop. The old Wilbarger plantation home, now over a hundred years old, is still in excellent repair and contains many family heirlooms and antiques. It is the present home of Mrs. Young.

A plaque has been made of the home by government architects and placed in the Library of Congress.

Mrs. W. B. Ransome is another pianist and organist member of the club, and her home has long been a music center in the community. The music rooms in her home are furnished with museum pieces and art objects, old and valuable musical instruments, and among her most valuable instruments are two old fashioned square pianos, one still tuned to concert pitch. Other items include a grand piano, a Hammond organ, antique furnishings, brass chandeliers, Persian rugs, marble mantles over fireplaces, and many rare China and Dresden lamps.

Mrs. F. W. Denison is a loyal and faithful member of the club who devotes much of her time to choir directing. She is the director of the choir of the First Methodist Church. Mrs. Denison is well known through central Texas for her clear, lovely lyric soprano voice, and is often featured on programs and social gatherings. Inheriting her talent and love of music from her mother, Mrs. Lula Hood, herself an accomplished musician, Mrs. Denison has studied with David Griffin of San Antonio and the late Lester C. Brenizer of Austin, both outstanding instructors in the southwest.

Active members for the year 1954-1955 are as follows: Mrs. Ireland Allbright, Mrs. W. E. Branyon, Mrs. F. W. Denison, Mrs. W. R. Gore, Mrs. S. M. Hardt, Mrs. H. M. Koch, Mrs. C. L. Lawrence, Mrs. C. A. Long, Mrs. Cecil Long, Mrs. R. W. Loveless, Mrs. G. B. Mack, Mrs. P. C. Maynard, Mrs. W. E. Maynard, Mrs. W. B. Ransome, Mrs. W. N. Schulze, Mrs. O. W. Sumerlin, Mrs. O. F. Wamel, Mrs. C. E. Wilkins, Mrs. Joe K. Young.

Associate members are Mrs. John Barton, Mrs. E. L. Corson, Mrs. A. A. Sanders, Mrs. Henry Schuyler, Mrs. A. P. Smith; life members, Mrs. T. P. Haynie, Mrs. O. P. Jones and honorary member, Mrs. G. P. Gardner of Jackson, Tennessee.

Prayer Saves Priests On Banks Of The Colorado

(Excerpt from an article on the Old San Antonio Road appearing in the Galveston News on January 16, 1921.)

It would be an error to conclude that the highway (Old San Antonio Road) was laid out and established by those journeying to and fro. From San Antonio to the Rio Grande there seems to have been but one route, probably an Indian trail leading to the pass on the river. At the other end of the road between Neches and Sabine were Indian trails from village to village, which the travelers naturally traveled. But between the Neches and the San Antonio Rivers, there was no settled trail for many years.

As the years went on, however, it became a well-defined trail, and the boundaries of the old Spanish grants in the beginning of the last century were marked by its trace. It was not a road in the proper sense of the word, but was a mule trail, winding around hills over valleys and across prairies, and crossing the streams at the most

accessible fords and ferries. Along its course would wind the long trains of pack mules bearing supplies from Mexico for the lonely missions in the east; their loads containing provisions for the priests and soldiers, and presents of cloth and trinkets for the Indians. These journeys were long and tedious, and the travelers were often in imminent peril from hostile Indians, who came yearly to the buffalo range through which it passed on hunting expeditions. There is a story that a party of priests were chased by one of those predatory bands and crossed a river barely ahead of their pursuers. In their extremity, they prayed to be delivered from their foes, and behold, before the Indians came to the stream, a tremendous rise came roaring down the valley, effectually cutting off pursuit. The pious churchmen, in gratitude, named the river "Brazos a Dios", the arm of God. The river is now the Colorado. By some transposition, the names of the thundering Brazos and the muddy red Colorado were interchanged and so remain to this day.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S FIRST VIEW OF THE BASTROP AREA

Miss Grace Fitzwilliam

In the journal which Stephen F. Austin kept on his first trip to Texas in 1821 are these entries pertaining to what is now Bastrop county.

"TUESDAY, AUGUST 7. Came to the Colorado River—poor gravelly ridges and near the river heavy pine timber, grapes in immense quantities on low vines, red, large, and well flavored, good for Red wine. The Colorado River is sometimes less than the Brazos (Brazos), banks very high—generally clear of overflow—bottom and banks gravelly, water very clear and well tasted, current brisk, the river very much resembles Cumberland River, except that there are no rocks and it is some larger.

"The bottom where the road crosses is about five miles, mostly high prairie, clear of overflow, land rich, timber Pecan, Ash, Oak, Cedar, abundance of fish.

"There is a small hill two miles above the road out of which Don Era (Don Erasmo Seguin) informed me smokes and sparks issued—there is a very rich silver mine up the River on the St. Saber (San Saba), also a gold mine on the Yana (Llano). The country up the river is very good but scarce of timber.

"WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8. Came on to Cedar Creek eight miles—country generally poor and gravelly. Abundance of cedar on this creek, very large, good water—Post oak wood—ten miles further to a creek in the Barrens—no water, weather hot and we travelled until ten o'clock at night. Country poor and gravelly."

Austin at this time was on his way to San Antonio to receive from the Spanish government confirmation of his father's grant. He had begun his journey on June 26, 1821, at Nachitoches, Louisiana, where he was met by Jose Erasmo Seguin, Juan Veramendi, and several others who had been sent by Governor Martinez to meet Moses Austin and his settlers and escort them into Texas. But Moses Austin was dead, and his son Stephen F. Austin wanted to fulfill the contract. As they traveled along the Old San Antonio Road, a firm friendship was established between Austin and Seguin. Later throughout the Texas Revolution Seguin was loyal to the Anglo-Americans. His ranch home near present Floresville was a storehouse and supply station for Texas troops; beeves, oxen, sheep, mules, horses, blankets, food, wagons, and harness were given without stint to James W. Fannin, Phillip Dimitt and others until the fall of the Alamo. In the retreat to East Texas Seguin tried to continue as supply agent by driving some 3,000 sheep along. He had the respect and friendship of the Texas leaders of his day.

The hill which he pointed out to Austin as one having issued smoke and sparks has been identified as Bald Knob, believed to be an extinct volcano.

Veramendi probably informed Austin about the silver mine on the San Saba and the gold dust mine on the Llano. For ten years later Veramendi was in partnership with James Bowie, who had spent some time in the San Saba area hunting for what is known as the lost Bowie mine. Bowie married Veramendi's daughter Ursula at the great house known as the Veramendi Palace in San Antonio. It was at the door of this palace that Ben Milam was killed in December, 1835, at the siege of Bexar. Among those who went "with old Ben Milam into San Antonio" that day, a little more than fourteen years after Stephen Austin first saw the Colorado, was Samuel Wolfenbarger, Alcalde (mayor) of the town of Mina, now Bastrop, but then the capitol of Austin's Little Colony.

Bibliography: "Journal of Stephen F. Austin on His First Trip to Texas, 1821", Ed. E. C. Barker, Texas Historical Quarterly, vol. 7; Handbook of Texas, vol. 1; Wolfenbarger Family Records (Ms. belonging to Mrs. Lowell Culpepper).

Relic Of San Jacinto Found In McDade

(Editor's note—The following is a reprint of a clipping which came to us with no date of publication. We have been unable to determine exactly when or where the story appeared—obviously it was in the 1930's, and probably in the Elgin Courier.)

Away back in the early part of the 18th century in a mountain home in Tennessee was born a boy. Keared by hearty pioneer parents, with the spirit of adventure born in his blood, young Enoch K. Smith turned his face to the west and made his way into the Republic of Texas, where new fields of discovery and adventure life lay open and promising to the frontiersman who cared to risk his life and have the perils of toil and hardships that were the lot of all who penetrated into the depths of this vast new country.

Tarrying but briefly along his journey at the towns and settlements, this soldier of fortune pressed on until one morning he came upon a new settlement on the banks of a beautiful river and by the settlers was persuaded to cast his lot with them.

This place is now the town of Bastrop and the settlers were a colony headed by Moses Austin.

Soon thereafter the Mexicans invaded the territory and with the true loyalty and indomitable courage so characteristic of the early settlers of Texas, young Smith joined the forces of Gen. Houston to fight for the freedom of Texas.

In the memorable battle of San Jacinto on the 21st day of April 1836, young Smith took part, and when the spoils of victory were divided, he found himself in possession of a small elegant china pitcher, a couple of blankets and a child's dress.

The pitcher was of unique design painted with the Mexican Court of Arms, and on the wings of the eagle in gold letters was the name "Santa Anna", which proved it to be the property of the Mexican general who handled the invasion into Texas and who had been captured at this battle.

A short time after this battle, Enoch Smith returned to Tennessee and married, but he could not be content, and one morning he told his neighbors that Tennessee was no country for a poor man, he was going back to Texas. Packing his belongings in a wagon drawn by two oxen he, with his wife and little son, started on the long journey to Texas.

Fortune favored him and in the course of time he again arrived at Bastrop and going up on Piney creek about six miles north of Bastrop he built a home for his family and cleared a little farm. There a daughter came to brighten their home.

Today in a home in McDade about 7 miles from this first settlement lives this daughter, Mrs. Mary Blackwell, and in her possession is the china pitcher which was taken from Santa Anna by her father at the battle of San Jacinto. Unfortunately, though, it was knocked from the mantle a few years ago and was broken, but Mrs. Blackwell has carefully preserved the pieces and expects to have it restored soon.

She also has in her possession, a finger ring, another trophy secured by her father at the battle of San Jacinto.

Mrs. Blackwell, a charming lady of 72 years, is rightly proud of the old relics and of her ancestor's part in the freeing of Texas from the Mexicans.

Her husband, J. W. Blackwell, who died in 1927, was also descended from pioneer stock and on the wall in the "front room" hangs an old picture of Mr. Blackwell's father clad in the uniform of a confederate soldier and his uniform and side arms indicate that he was an officer of high rank.

To the left of this picture is another of a young man in the khaki uniform of the American soldiers in the World War.

"That's my son, Charleston," said Mrs. Blackwell, with a marked expression of pride, "and I have another boy who would have been in the World War had he been a little older."

And the thought came to the writer's mind: No wonder the war ended as soon as the American boys got in their work, with soldiers coming down from ancestors like the pioneer Enoch Smith, and the confederate soldier Blackwell.

Mrs. Blackwell has ten children, two boys and eight girls, all living, married and doing well and she at the age of 72, is as spry and lively as many of several years younger, and to her and other mothers like her is due the honor and the glory of furnishing true men and women who are the backbone and source of true Americanism.

This historic pitcher is now the property of her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Blackwell Strong, wife of Arthur Strong of McDade.

From Bastrop To Mina To Bastrop, 1832 - 1837

By Grace Fitzwilliam

Although Noah Smithwick, in his often quoted book, "The Evolution of a State", declares "I have no knowledge of the town of Bastrop ever having been called Mina," acts of the legislature of Coahuila and Texas and the Congress of the Republic of Texas show that it was officially so called for more than three years.

It is true that when the town was formally established on June 8, 1832, it was named Bastrop. The original grant signed on that day by Miguel Arciniega, commissioner appointed by the government of Mexico, reads in part: "I . . . being on this day at the point or place on the Colorado River where it crosses the road which goes from Bexar to Nacogdoches, known by the name of Upper Road, and on the left margin of the same river and considering it to be a very suitable and appreciate site for the founding of a new town which should serve as capital in the said colony . . . have seen fit to select said site and to found a town whose plane area contains four leagues of land . . . to which town I give the name and title of the town of Bastrop".

In that same year, Silas Dinsmore represented Bastrop at the convention which met at San Felipe de Austin, October 1 to 6. Sixteen settlements were represented by fifty-eight delegates at this meeting, which pledged its support to the government of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, newly established in Mexico, and requested certain governmental reforms for the colonies in Texas.

Moreover, the Deed Records of Bastrop County show that in 1833 Richard Andrews applied to the Mexican government for Farm Lot 16 in the town of Bastrop.

But on April 3, 1834, a bill was introduced in the legislature of the free states of Coahuila and Texas proposing that the town be named Mina. The bill was introduced by the representative from the Department of Bexar, Oliver Jones, who had been seated February 22, 1834, in the legislature meeting at Monclova. The bill proposed that a new municipality be created and named Mina, and that the capital of the municipality be the town situated on the Colorado river where the San Antonio Road crosses that river and that the town be named Mina. Jones supported his bill with the argument that from 1400 to 1500 people lived in the area, making it necessary to create another municipality. (A municipality was a division in the Mexican state similar to a modern Texas county.) On April 24, 1834, by Decree no. 283 of the government of Coahuila and Texas, Oliver Jones' bill became law and the boundaries of the municipality were officially located and the town named. The decree directed also that the alcalde of the town of San Felipe de Austin should proceed to the town of Mina to preside at the electoral meetings of the new ayuntamiento according to law.

Apparently this direction was followed, for by August 18, 1834, the ayuntamiento of the municipality of Mina had been established and was in regular session. The partial minutes of this ayuntamiento quoted in the 1935 Historical Edition of the Bastrop Advertiser show that R. M. Coleman was president and that many decisions relating to the town of Mina were made. For example, it was ordered that anyone who should cut, hack or otherwise injure any of the shade trees within the limits of the town of Mina should be fined five dollars. The heirs of Thomas Christian, who had been killed by the Indians at the time Josiah Wilbarger was scalped, were deeded two building lots in the town of Mina, and R. M. Coleman was authorized to make a conditional contract for the building of a court house in the town of Mina.

More evidence of the existence of Mina in 1834 is in the Statistical Report on Texas, made by Colonel Juan Almonte, who in that year was sent to Texas by Valentin Gomez Farias, vice president of Mexico, to make an accurate inspection and to promise reforms in order to gain time. The Mexican authorities feared that Texas was about to secede or revolt. Almonte spent May, June and half of July in Texas. He traveled through the various departments, studying the situation in each, as well as searching for any evidence that might point to impending revolution. In his report, Mina is listed as one of the chief cities of the Department of Brazos, others being San Felipe, Brazoria, Matagorda, Gonzales, Harrisburg and Valesco. "The land included in the district covered by these towns," Almonte

reports, "is what is generally known as Austin's Colony". The population of the municipality of Mina is given as 1,100 and persons living outside of towns in the municipality but under their jurisdiction as 210. The town is described thus: "Mina is on the road that connects Bexar and Nacogdoches, upon the right bank of the Colorado River, and is prosperous, also, in spite of the depredations committed by the wild Indians."

Records of 1835 show that the town was still called Mina. On April 13 of that year, Don Carlos Barrett, native of Vermont, appeared before Samuel Wolfenberger, alcalde of the municipality of Mina, took the oath of allegiance and became a citizen of Coahuila and Texas, settling in the town of Mina, where he formed a law partnership with E. M. Pease, who later twice became Governor of Texas. On May 8, the citizens of Mina elected a committee of safety with D. C. Barrett as president. He represented Mina in the Consultation of 1835. Also in 1835, the Mina volunteers were organized and commanded by Robert M. Coleman from September 28 to December 16.

In the next year, 1836, the representatives from Mina who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence were Robert M. Coleman, John W. Buntin, and T. J. Gazley.

The Deed Records of Bastrop County show that in November, 1837, Micah Andrews, acting as the administrator of the estate of Richard Andrews, sold Farm Lot 16 in the town of Mina to Bartholomew Manlove for \$75. This is the same lot that Richard Andrews had acquired in 1833 in what was then Bastrop.

But by November, 1837, the days of Mina were numbered. In less than a month its name passed from the official records. The Journal of the Senate of the Congress of the Republic of Texas, meeting in the Second Session at Houston, reveals that on the afternoon of December 18, 1837, James Seaton Lester "introduced a resolution to change the name of the county and town of Mina to Bastrop, which was read, and the rule being suspended, it passed." On the same afternoon, the House concurred. The joint resolution was then presented to the president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, who approved it. Thus the name of the county and the town of Mina was changed to that of Bastrop, and has so remained ever since.

In brief, the records show that the Texas town which was first named Bastrop bore that name for two years, 1832 to 1834. But in April, 1834, a decree of Mexican government of Coahuila and Texas officially named the town Mina. During the next three years it was referred to in the official records as Mina until December 18, 1837, when the town was again named Bastrop by an act of the Congress of the Republic of Texas.

It is generally believed that the name Mina was in honor of the Spanish patriot Francisco Xavier Mina, although Oliver Jones' argument in support of the bill naming the town makes no mention of that fact. However, in 1834, Francisco Xavier Mina was regarded in Mexico, newly freed from Spanish rule, much as Lafayette was honored in the young United States. Although Mina was a Spaniard, he had crossed the Atlantic to join forces with the Mexican liberals who were fighting for independence from Spanish tyranny and in 1817 had led an expedition from Galveston Island into Mexico. After winning many small victories over Spanish forces, he was finally defeated and captured at Venadito. He was taken to Mexico City and executed on November 11, 1817.

After Mexican independence was won, Mina was a national hero, a martyr to the cause of liberty. Stephen F. Austin, on his first journey to Mexico City in 1822 travelled from Monterrey southward with but one companion, a veteran of Mina's expedition. If Austin had not known of Mina before, he no doubt heard much of the hero on this journey. Four years later, when Austin established a new judicial district to serve the colonists on the Colorado, he named it Mina. But in 1834, when the town which is now Bastrop was named Mina by legislative decree, Austin was in solitary confinement in the old Inquisition prison in Mexico City. He had gone there to plead for independence of Texas from Coahuila and for other reforms for the colony, but Gomez Farias, acting president of Mexico, believed Austin was plotting to annex Texas to the United States and ordered his arrest. Fearing that any demonstrations on the part of his colonists would make conditions harder for them and for himself, Austin urged submission and loyalty to Mexican authority. Oliver Jones, the representative from Bexar in the legislature at Monclova, was a good friend of Austin and, realizing the gravity of the situation, may have proposed the name Mina for the municipality and its capital in the hope of convincing the Mexican authorities of the loyalty of the Anglo-American colonists and thus ameliorating Austin's imprisonment.

When the name was changed from Mina back to Bastrop in 1837, conditions in Texas were greatly altered. The battle of San Jacinto had

been fought, Texas was a republic, Stephen F. Austin was dead, Mexican authority was no longer feared, and Mexican heroes no longer honored.

James Seaton Lester

James Seaton Lester, who introduced the bill in the Senate of the Congress of the Republic of Texas to change the name of Mina to Bastrop, was a native of Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in 1831. In 1834 he moved to Texas and settled in Mina. There he served his new community well, representing the district in the Consultation of 1835, serving on the committee appointed to plan organization of the provisional government, acting as recruiting agent at Mina for the army to attack Bexar in 1835, and later fighting at the battle of San Jacinto. He served as senator from Bastrop and Gonzales in the First and Second Congresses, as representative from Fayette County in the Third Congress, and again as senator from Fayette and Bastrop in the Fourth and Fifth Congresses. He was one of the first trustees of Baylor University and chief justice of Fayette County. He laid out the town of La Grange; the Lester Hotel there today is named for him. When he died in 1879 in Upton at the home of his niece, Sarah Lester Grady (Mrs. Dan Grady), his body was taken to La Grange for burial. Mrs. Mary Long of Bastrop and Mrs. Sigur Jordon of Roswell, New Mexico, are his great nieces.

Puesta del Colorado Protects Early Travel Through Bastrop

By Grace Fitzwilliam

In a brief history of Bastrop County in the "Handbook of Texas", vol. 1, Julia Jones writes that "the first settlement in the area was made to protect the commerce on the Old San Antonio Road. Manuel Antonio Cordero y Bustamente in 1805 ordered troops stationed at the ford on the Colorado, where a stockade was built and the place named Puesta del Colorado (Post on the Colorado)".

How many troops were sent to the post has not been determined. Probably the number was small. In the Bexar Archives a report dated June 26, 1806, gives the number and assignment of troops in Texas. The number on the Colorado, however, is not listed separately, but is combined with the troops on the Guadalupe and the San Marcos, a total of thirty.

Two other documents in the Bexar Archives referring to the Post on the Colorado are as follows:

1. Instructions sent on June 26, 1806, from Comandante General Salcedo in Chihuahua to Francisco Viana (commanding at Nacogdoches) concerning Juan Jose Gomez, injured while building a guard house on the Colorado.

2. A letter, dated September 7, 1807, from Salcedo in Chihuahua to Antonio Cordero (governor of Texas) in Bexar, approving arrangements for treatment, at the Post on the Colorado, of the sick from the detachment at Atascosito.

(The Atascosito Crossing of the Colorado was near the coast on the Atascosito Road. The post there was an unhealthy spot.)

Obviously it was the Post on the Colorado, in or near present Bastrop, that Zebulon Pike saw on June 16, 1807, and described as a small Spanish station, consisting of a guard of dragoons and a few lodges of Tonkaway Indians.

When the Post on the Colorado was abandoned has not been determined. There is on file in the Bexar Archives a list of persons in Nacogdoches making claims for stock used in moving artillery from Nacogdoches to Bexar. Among the animals lost was an ox at or near the Colorado. The date of this claim is October 26, 1807, indicating that in the fall of that year Spanish forces were withdrawing from the eastern frontier. Whether the Post on the Colorado was abandoned during this withdrawal or later, when the revolution against Spanish authority began, has not been determined.

Family Names Appearing On Early Settlers List

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

Among the early settlers to establish families in this area, Mrs. Helen Prokop said, as she reminisced of other days, were Prokop, Gloeckner, Linke, Hoppe, Kleinert, Michels, Kreitz, Willenberg, Brinkman, Geis, Boese, Schaefer, Hoffman, Keil, Theileman, Goodman, Wertner, Jung, Hasler, Laake, Griesenbeck, Pfeiffer, Elzner, Bauhoff, Hanke, Baron, Rabensburg, Prause, Kesselus, Orts, Bastian, Prof. Heiligbrodt, Eilers, Erhard, Brieger, Schilling, Gest, Miller, Reid, Dawson, Bryant, Davis, Johnson and Glover.

Early Election Held In Bastrop In 1831

By Grace Fitzwilliam

The town of Bastrop was formally established on June 8, 1832. But six months before that date an election was held in the precinct of Bastrop, in a house that probably stood somewhere in the present town limits.

The minutes of the Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, bearing the date November 7, 1831, read "... elections shall be held at the hereinafter described places:

"Precinct of Bastrop—At the house of Richard Andrews to be presided by sindico Mays ..."

The same minutes for December 18, 1831, declared "... the following citizens constitutionally elected:

"For the precinct of Bastrop, Richard Andrews, comisario, and Mosea Rousseau, sindico". The vote for municipal elections held on the 11th and 13th of December, 1831, is recorded in the minutes as follows:

"Precinct of Bastrop:

"For comisario Richard Andrews received 33 votes

"For sindico Mosea Rousseau received 15 votes

"... Tannehill received 14 votes"

San Felipe de Austin, at the old Atascosito Crossing of the Brazos river in present Austin County, was the headquarters of Stephen F. Austin's main colony. The ayuntamiento (town council) there gave official instructions to the settlements too small or too scattered to have councils of their own.

"The Handbook of Texas" describes the comisario, under Spanish and Mexican law, as "an elected official serving in districts or precincts of around five hundred inhabitants. The term of office was one year, and while a comisario might be re-elected, he could not be compelled to serve more than one year in three. He was subject to the ayuntamiento and might attend its sessions but had no vote in its deliberations. Duties of the comisario were to take a census of the precinct, keep a record of families moving into it and of the place from which they came, assist tax collectors, arrest disturbers of the peace, execute the orders of his superiors, and report undesirable persons to the nearest alcalde. In addition, the comisario was invested with minor judicial authority similar to that of the alcalde".

According to the "Handbook of Texas", "the sindico combined the duties of a notary and a city attorney in the Spanish municipality. He handled the legal affairs of the district or precinct and sometimes acted as treasurer. Each municipality was required to have one sindico; settlements of over two hundred inhabitants had two or more such officers in ratio to the population".

The Deed Records of Bastrop County show that a Richard Andrews once owned Farm Lot 16 (twelve acres) in the town of Bastrop. He applied for it from the Mexican government in 1833. In November, 1837, Micah Andrews, acting as the administrator of the estate of Richard Andrews, sold Farm Lot 16 in the town of Mina (Bastrop) to Bartholomew Manlove for seventy-five dollars.

Furthermore the list of original Texas land titles, compiled by the General Land Office in 1941, shows that Richard Andrews on November 23, 1832, received title to 3321.30 acres of land in present Bastrop County. This land, listed as survey no. 1, is on the west side of the Colorado river and includes the village of Upton. Lying north of this tract is a quarter league granted to Micah Andrews. The muster roll of Company C, 1st Regiment Texas Volunteers, lists Micah Andrews as first lieutenant. Company C was commanded by Captain Jesse Billingsley and is known as the company composed of Bastrop men. This company was at the battle of San Jacinto.

The "Handbook of Texas", vol. 1, gives more information about Richard Andrews "... son of William Andrews, he came to Texas with his father and family to settle in the Fort Bend area on the Brazos river at the later site of Richmond. He and his brother Micah became Indian fighters and both joined the army at the beginning of the Texas Revolution. Richard Andrews, called Big Dick because of his immense stature and strength, was wounded in the battle of Gonzales on October 2, 1835. He was with James Bowie and James W. Fannin at the battle of Conception in which he was killed on October 28, 1835".

Richard Andrews was the only man on the Texas side killed in the battle of Conception and the first to die in the war for Texas Independence. The records cited in the preceding paragraphs are offered as proof that Richard Andrews, Big Dick, the first man to die for Texas independence, was one of Bastrop's early settlers and a duly elected official.

The other successful candidate in that early election, Mosea Rousseau, who received 15 votes for sindico, came to Texas from Alabama. The Deed Records of Bastrop County, vol. 4, contain a copy of Rousseau's application for a grant of land. The

application, made in San Felipe de Austin, March 6, 1831, reads in part—"with my family I entered the country in the year 1828 with the object of settling myself permanently, to which end and with the approval of the Hon. Empresario Austin, I have selected one league of land which is situated on the right margin of the Colorado River at the point where the road from Bexar to Nacogdoches crosses said river; for which reason I present myself to you so that you may be pleased as commissioner, appointed to that effect, to put me in possession of said league of land; it being understood that I offer to settle and cultivate it as prescribed by the colonization law and to comply with other obligations prescribed by the same".

Two days later, Samuel M. Williams, Austin's secretary, testified that Mozea (sic) Rousseau was a man of many good qualities, great honesty and industry. The next day the commissioner, Miguel Arciniega, admitted the petition and ordered Austin's official surveyor, Thomas H. Borden, brother of Gail Borden, to survey the land indicated. On April 4, 1831, Mozea Rousseau received title to one league of land situated on the west side of the Colorado river at the point where the road from Bexar to Nacogdoches crossed that river. Today the Kleber Schaefer place, the home of Dr. Fred Pease, and the Fitzwilliam place are within that league.

Rousseau's grant, in a favorable position in respect to the new town and to the road, was in an unfavorable one for protection against hostile Indians. The boundaries of Austin's first colony extended roughly from the San Jacinto river on the east to the Lavaca on the west and ten leagues from the Gulf north to the San Antonio Road. This road, which was at the northern edge of Rousseau's grant, was also the northern boundary of the First Colony. North of the road was the territory of the Indians who often crossed the border to plunder and to kill.

Mozea Rousseau did not long cultivate the land granted him, for early in 1833 he was killed, not by Indians, however, as were many of the settlers in the area, but by a fellow colonist. A letter written by General Edward Burleson, February 4, 1844, and addressed to Mirabeau B. Lamar at Washington, Texas, tells us that Colonel Rousseau lived across the river from Bastrop in 1832 and that he was killed by Edward Jenkins in 1833. Rousseau's widow married James Smith, who lived with Rousseau. Smith was still living in 1844.

The unsuccessful candidate for the office of sindico—Tannehill may have been J. C. Tannehill. The Reverend Rufus Burleson, in his history of the Burleson family, writes as follows: "J. C. and Jane (Richardson) Tannehill were married in Tennessee and came to Texas in 1829. They were members of Austin's second colony at Bastrop, where J. C. Tannehill built the first house in the town. They lived there until the "Runaway Scrape" of 1836, and then located in La Grange. In 1839, Mr. Tannehill settled on his headright which joined the city of Austin on the east". The minutes of the ayuntamiento of Mina (Bastrop) list Jessie (sic) C. Tannehill as one of the regidores present, August 18, 1834.

Sindico Mays who presided at the 1831 election probably was Thomas H. Mays. Concerning him, Miss Belle Jones in her book "Bastrop" quotes a letter written to the Advertiser in 1913 by F. F. Mays of Waco: "My father, Thomas H. Mays ... built the first house of any notoriety in Bastrop. It was a story and a half log building, built of fine logs on Pine Street about three or four blocks from the river leading to the hills". The minutes of the ayuntamiento of Mina, dated August 18, 1834, record the election of Thomas May (sic) as surveyor for the municipality of Mina. The county court records, County of Mina, Republic of Texas, May term, 1837, "call upon Thomas H. Mays, former alcalde, for the books, papers, etc. in his possession belonging to his office". Thus we learn that Thomas H. Mays was alcalde (mayor) of Mina (Bastrop) in the fateful year 1836.

Bastrop As Seen By A Soldier In November, 1835

By Grace Fitzwilliam

On a November evening a hundred and twenty years ago, through the pine trees east of Bastrop, rode the first company of the New Orleans Greys, young volunteers from the United States and Europe, eager to aid Texas in her fight for independence. They were on their way to besiege San Antonio, then occupied by the Mexican general, Cos.

The youngest of these volunteers was Herman Ehrenberg, a seventeen year old German boy, son of a royal official in Prussia. He had come to the United States earlier that year, possibly because he had become involved in a liberal political movement during his student days at Jena. After landing in New York City, he worked his way down to New Orleans, where on October 11, 1835, he attended a great meeting in behalf of Texas. Responding to the call for volunteers, he

had joined the company named for the grey color of its ready-made clothes, suitable for prairie life, and provided from the warehouses of New Orleans. Now on a horse procured in Nacogdoches, he was riding along the San Antonio Road, armed like his companions with a rifle, pistols, and a bowie knife. In his book "With Milam and Fannin", Ehrenberg has described his approach through the pines and his first view of the town at the San Antonio Crossing of the Colorado.

"As we approached Bastrop, the last American settlement we were to pass through before reaching San Antonio, a hundred miles farther on, rolling country dotted with pines gradually replaced the level land through which we had been travelling since leaving Washington (on the Brazos). The pine forests among which we were now riding were tall and dark. The hour was late, and the declining sun, as it sank slowly behind the treetops, cast long, narrow shafts of golden light into the deepening gloom. Night soon eclipsed the waning day, and hid us in its sombre folds. As the country was new to us, we guided our horses carefully, watching every step they took. The starless obscurity had blotted out our trail, and our only way of keeping to the right track was to follow with our eyes the deep blue strip of sky peering above us between the black and soaring pine crests.

"Our horses cantered on, seeking with apprehensive caution the road no longer discernable to the human eye, while we scanned the deepening gloom to avoid being scratched by the low branches of the pines hanging over our path. It must have been close to midnight; we were hardly able to keep to our saddles for fatigue, yet we could not think of pulling up before we had found water to quench the thirst of our exhausted animals. Moreover, they needed fodder, and so far, we had met no suitable grazing grounds. We therefore drearily plodded on at the heels of one another with whatever courage was left us.

"Suddenly in the hitherto unbroken silence of the night the foremost horses began to neigh joyfully, a sign that some pleasant surprise lay in store for us in this vicinity. Examining the surroundings keenly, on our right we perceived the scattered lights of a small town. Climbing up an abrupt hill, we soon rode through the evenly laid out streets of the settlement of Bastrop, and went straight to the Colorado River to water our horses. The citizens, coming out to meet us, replaced us in the performance of this task, and as they had already been expecting us for some time, we could sit down at once to a good supper in their hospitable homes. After we had finished our meal, we strolled around in the streets, where the inhabitants had kindled many fires. Eight or ten tree trunks lay heaped on every blazing pile and the glowing flames danced to and fro under the dark canopy above. The colonists wanted us to pass the night under their roofs, but we had become so used to sleeping in the open that we declined their invitation. After wishing everybody good night, we wrapped ourselves up in our rugs, tucked the ends over our heads and lay down by the fire. This was the last night we should spend in the American settlements, for we had come to the edge of the vast, deserted prairie which lay between Bastrop and San Antonio. For a hundred miles we were now to follow the long trails of this unbroken plain. It is no wonder, therefore, if the prospect of this long, solitary journey filled us with excitement and anxiety."

What became of the young Prussian who wrote so romantically of his ride through the Lost Pines?

By the end of November, 1835, the New Orleans Greys were at the camp of the Texans, commanded by General Edward Burleson on the outskirts of San Antonio. Ehrenberg, along with the Greys, took part in the storming of the city. After San Antonio was taken, he became involved in the Matamoros expedition and was with Fannin in the battle of Coleto. He escaped as if by a miracle from the massacre at Goliad on Palm Sunday, 1836, only to be made a prisoner of General Urrea's army.

After independence was won, he received honorable discharge from the army of the Republic of Texas from Mirabeau B. Lamar, Secretary of War, and for his services a draft on the empty treasury for \$130. Later he went west to Oregon, then to California. He was Indian agent for the Mohaves on the Colorado River Reservation two years before his death. He was killed, probably by Indians, October, 1866, at Dos Palmas, California, on the road between his home and San Bernardino.

His book was first published in Leipsig, Germany, 1843, as "Texas und Seine Revolution". It appeared again in 1844 under another title, and in 1845 as "Fahrten und Schicksale eines Deutschen in Texas". These three editions would indicate that it enjoyed a good sale, and it is believed that it played some part in attracting German immigration to Texas during the '40's and '50's. The American edition of the book, which contains an introduction by Herbert P. Gambell of Southern Methodist University, was translated by Charlotte Churchill and published in 1935 at Dallas under the title "With Milam and Fannin, Adventures of a German Boy in Texas' Revolution".

Calvary Church Formally Established In 1869

(From the records of Calvary Church)

Calvary Episcopal Church was formally established May 5th, 1869, by the Right Reverend Alexander Gregg, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas. However, Episcopal worship services had been held intermittently in Bastrop by visiting clergymen since November of 1860.

According to the parish records, Mrs. A. Cocheron was the first known Episcopalian in Bastrop, but the Bishop established Calvary Parish at the request of Mrs. J. C. Higgins and named the church for one she had attended in her earlier life.

Until the congregation was able to secure a building in which to worship, services were held in the Methodist Church once each month and on other Sundays in the homes of the parishioners.

The day the church was organized, in addition to the regular worship services, one infant, now Mrs. D. P. Holland, was baptised and several adults were confirmed. One of the adults confirmed, according to the Parish Register, was the Rev. John W. Phillips, a Methodist minister, who later became the first rector of Calvary Episcopal Church.

A small organ was carried from the Higgins' home to the nearby Methodist Church for the first time, creating a stir in the town. (Only a tuning fork had been used before, as some of the "old timers" thought it was a sin to use a machine in the church.)

Col. Higgins, a Congregationalist by birth and Methodist by adoption, was elected Senior Warden, and his son, Erastus Fairbanks, was elected one of the Vestry. Captain James Fleming and Major Dinwiddie, professors in Bastrop Military Academy which had trained many soldiers for the Civil War, were in the first Confirmation Class. Both were graduates of the still famous V. M. I.—Virginia Military Institute.

The first church building was a white frame structure owned by Col. J. C. Higgins, which he gave to the parish one year after the church was founded. It served as the church of the congregation until 1882, when the present brick structure was erected. The original church building was used for a number of years as the Episcopal parsonage.

Plans for the present church building were made when the Rev. Edwin Wickens, Bishop Gregg's one missionary for the large Diocese of Texas, came to Bastrop. Mr. Wickens was called the Church Builder of Texas. He was sent first to perform the burial service of the young son of Col. Higgins, who was a victim of typhoid fever. At a memorial service held for Horace Douglas Higgins, Mr. Wickens suggested that a new church be built in memory of Horace Higgins, who was acting as Lay Reader at the time of his death. This brilliant and devout son of Col. J. C. Higgins was a graduate of Sewanee, Tennessee, the University of the South, and law department of the University of Virginia. Two rows of black brick around the outside wall were placed as a memorial to the faithful young Lay Reader. Eleven stained glass windows were given as memorials by Dr. and Mrs. Lockett, Mr. and Mrs. Gill, Dr. and Mrs. David Sayers, Mrs. Cocheron, Mrs. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. House in the main body of the church, and the large double window in the front of the church was given by Col. Higgins and Mrs. E. F. Higgins, in memory of Erastus Fairbanks, Horace Douglas and Baby Henry Higgins. It has two life size figures, one of St. Peter with the keys of Heaven, the other of St. John with the open Book of Life. In the apex at the top is a cluster of white pansies—"Heart's Ease" for Baby Henry. All the windows in the church are of the finest stained glass made by the famous Geissler Company.

The round Rose Window over the Altar was given by the Bible Class. The girls of the Sunday School gave one of the side Chancel windows with a design of a Sheaf of Wheat, symbolical of Bread, and the Sunday School boys gave the other window, at the left side of the Altar, which has a cluster of grapes, symbolical of the Vine and Wine. The fine McNeely Bell was a gift from Mr. T. W. House of Houston, whose wife was a daughter of Mr. James Nicholson, one of the earliest and most devoted members of Calvary Church.

The first Altar, used for 58 years, was replaced in 1927 by a more churchly altar of solid walnut of beautiful workmanship and design. Mr. Duval Higgins, a devoted church leader, started the movement and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hasler, parents of little Joe Hasler, who had recently been called to that Larger Life, gave the fifty dollars found in their son's bank to that fund. The Guild and several other parishioners contributed toward the purchase of the new Altar, which bears the inscription "For All Thy Saints Who From Their Labors Rest." Mr. Murphy dedicated the Altar on Easter Sunday, 1927.

Among the earlier members of the Parish were Mrs. Robert Gill, Mrs. Lockett, Mr. Charles Haynie, Dr. David Sayers and Mrs. Dyer Moore, mother of Mrs. Oliver Jones, and Miss Heise, sister of Mrs. Moore.

A large number of the older members have passed away and memorials have been placed in the church by them. A fine churchly pulpit, long needed, was given by the family of Ernest Hasler, in his memory; a handsome Brass Alms Basin was given by the children of Mr. and Mrs. William Higgins Sr., in memory of their parents and brother, Duval Higgins.

Two beautiful seven branch candlesticks for the Altar were given by Misses Nell and Grace Fitzwilliam, in memory of their mother and aunts. A silver Lava Bowl, to complete the Communion Service, was given by the Daughters of the King from Trinity Church, Houston. That chapter of the Daughters of the King make a practice of giving fine Communion Services to parishes where they are needed. The money for this purpose is secured from their Self Denial Fund, as that organization of the Episcopal Church believes only in voluntary offering.

A five thousand legacy was willed to Calvary Church by one of its most devoted members, Duval Higgins, grandson of Col. J. C. Higgins. A handsome brass book rest to hold the Service Books used on the Altar was given by the Sunday School in memory of two young members, Olivia Lee Elzner and Joe Hasler Jr. Two large Prayer Books were given to use on this book rest, one in memory of Mr. Robert Myers, one in memory of Hugo Wertzner, who had given years of faithful service as superintendent of Calvary Sunday School. The Sunday School children also had a wooden cross made with large round openings in which to place flowers, and at Easter every year, there is still a special service for this purpose and flowers are taken afterward and placed on Mr. Wertzner's grave. His son, Arthur, had the old Bible, used for many years on the Lectern at Calvary Church, beautifully renovated and rebound as a memorial to his father. The Lectern referred to is one of the oldest memorials in the church. It was placed there many years ago in memory of Mrs. Bella Yellowbey Patten by her sister, Leilah and "Aunt Minnie". (Mrs. E. F. Higgins.)

During the year in which the new Altar was dedicated, the church grew and flourished in many ways. There were 123 communicants and a Sunday School of relative size. The leadership in the Sunday School was taken by Bruno Elzner Jr. and Mr. Hugo Wertzner.

The first organist of the church was Miss Bella Yellowbey, daughter of Col. and Mrs. J. C. Higgins.

Miss Belle Moore, now Mrs. Oliver P. Jones, began playing the organ when she was twelve years old, and continued for many years as organist and choir director. She was forced to give up this work when her husband was taken desperately ill.

Mrs. Jones was succeeded by Mrs. T. P. Haynie.

The Young Peoples Service League was organized in 1927 and opened a club center in the rectory of the church. Their weekly meetings were held under the leadership of Miss Marcia Griesenbeck, now Mrs. Bruno Elzner Jr. The two adult advisors of the group were Mrs. Edwin Fitzwilliam and Mrs. T. P. Haynie. One of the projects of the group was to maintain the flower gardens around the church.

Outstanding among the 33 clergymen who have served the parish are the Rev. Messrs Percy Jones and Joseph Carden. The Rev. Mr. Jones served the church twice as rector and the Rev. Mr. Carden guided the church in its greatest growth and life which happened immediately after the church had been closed for nine years, 1906 to 1915, due to the unsafe condition of the building.

In the records of the church we find these words: "It took twenty-five hundred dollars and seven months to rebuild and repair the church which had been out of use for these long nine years."

When the church was restored, there were other memorials and gifts which were not mentioned above: the new organ, the organ light, the five lights on top of the tower, the three chandeliers, the five electric fans, the choir kneeling desk, the book rest, the credence table, the American Flag and concrete walks in front of and on the west side of the church.

Of the three chandeliers, the Rev. Mr. Jones points out in his history of the parish that "they were made and given by one who was not a member of the parish, Mr. J. E. Haines, who now rests on the bosom of his Father and his God".

When the coming of Camp Swift was announced, the members of Calvary Church felt more than ever the need of a Parish House in which to give entertainments as well as for Sunday School classes, Vestry, Guild meetings, etc., but only a small nest egg was available. However, our hopes were

revived when the Army and Navy Commission of the Episcopal Church came to our aid, offering to pay 1-2 of the amount necessary to build a modern Parish House. Fortunately for us, Mrs. Jennie Haines had given, some time before, a nice lot back of and adjoining the church. Contributions were requested and many given. Bishop Quin headed the list with \$.000. Then the Auxiliary Guild began work to pay off that "one half for construction" which had been promised. Dinners luncheons, teas and much hard work paid that debt and the long wished for comfort and convenience of a modern Parish House has proven its worth both to Calvary Church and to the Community.

Another great improvement we are very proud of is the new Rectory which is almost literally "The House That Cakes Built". St. Margaret's Guild deserves much credit for the great amount of unselfish and untiring work which they have done. St. Margaret's Guild has also purchased exquisite Altar Linens and Chancel furnishings, the latter in color suitable for each season of the coming year. William Richard Kesselus built a nice cedar closet in the vestry room where these are placed for safe keeping from dust, moths, mice, etc.

Calvary Church clergymen have served the Diocese of Texas well and in far flung fields, even as the church existed for many years under the guidance and direction of traveling priests.

The churches at La Grange, Smithville and Taylor were at one time or another served by the rectors of Calvary in Bastrop.

Despite the fact that the church was without a rector from 1951 to 1955, services were held regularly and under the lay leadership of men from Austin and the new Episcopal Seminary, the congregation has grown.

In 1953 the Vestry and congregation launched a restoration program for the building which was in need of repair. As was the case in 1915, when repairs were made to the church, the women and the men of the parish went to work to make the program a reality. More than ten thousand dollars was spent on the building during which time regular services were held in the Parish House.

The walls were strengthened and a new concrete floor was placed in the building. Much work was done to restore and repair the mortar which had deteriorated in the building itself. The pews and all furnishings of the church were refinished and certain changes were made in the chancel and sanctuary.

While much work was done to the building, the only new things that were added were lights in the Chancel and above the Altar, and a handsome red carpet with ecclesiastical designs in shadow black which covers the entire floor of the church. The restored church was re-dedicated by the R. Rev. Clinton S. Quin on October 25, 1953, just nine months after the work started.

One of the highlights of the life of the parish in recent years was the ordination service on July 2, 1955, of the Rev. R. Scott Copeland and the Rev. William R. Oxley of Austin to the Priesthood, which was attended by more than thirty Priests of the Diocese.

Catholic Ladies Altar Society Over 60 Years Old

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

The Ladies Altar Society of the Catholic Church was organized more than sixty years ago in a little church that stood on the corner where the present church is erected, recalls Mrs. Helen Prokop, who attended with her mother, Mrs. Maurice Gloeckner, at the age of seven years.

Those who organized the society, and who were its first members, are listed as follows:

Mrs. Joe Keil, Mrs. Anna Meyer, Mrs. Stephen Friske, Mrs. John Teichman, Mrs. R. J. Brieger, Mrs. Maurice Gloeckner, Mrs. Woody Townsend, Mrs. T. A. Hasler, Mrs. George Schaefer Sr., Mrs. Helen Michels, Mrs. Matt Kreitz Sr., Mrs. Betty Michels, Mrs. Charlie Schaefer, Mrs. Barbara Schaefer, Mrs. Mary Brieger and Mrs. A. L. Hoppe, who is the oldest living member.

Present membership is as follows:

Mrs. L. J. Linenberger, president; Mrs. Joe Wilhelm, vice-president; Mrs. Leo Ott, secretary; Mrs. Arlen Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Herman Bartsch, Mrs. E. Brinkman, Mrs. Minnie Ebner, Mrs. Ernest Frerich, Mrs. Norman Groff, Mrs. Johnie Hoffman, Mrs. A. L. Hoppe, Mrs. Matt Kreitz, Mrs. Pat Lamb, Mrs. John Mikeska, Mrs. Jerry Mikeska, Mrs. Joe Ott, Mrs. Jeff Osborn, Mrs. Rudolph Petter, Mrs. Helen Prokop, Mrs. Andy Wilhelm, Mrs. Otto Wolf, Mrs. Ed. Wolf, Mrs. Martha Wolf and Mrs. Rosa Woehl.

Duties of the society are to take care of the altar linens, and all interior decorations in the church.

County Officials Who Have Served Bastrop County

Listed below are county officials who have served Bastrop County from its organization to the present time, as nearly as records are available:

COUNTY JUDGE:

George Allen, 1866
C. C. McGinnis, 1866-1867
Wm. T. Allen, 1867-1869
Julius Schutze, 1869-1870
John B. Cope, 1870-1874
Joseph Jung, 1874-1876
Dyer Moore, 1876
J. B. Cope, 1876
D. M. Scott, Special Judge, 1883-1888
H. M. Garwood, 1888-1890
R. W. Riddel, 1890-1894
J. B. Price, 1894-1904
Paul D. Page, 1904-1909
J. B. Price, 1909-1924
E. H. Perkins, 1924-1930
Leslie D. Williams, 1930-1932
Hartford Jenkins, 1932-1936
R. B. Alexander, 1936-1940
C. B. Maynard, 1940-1943
J. J. Sapp, 1943-1952
Bower Crider, 1952-1955
Tom Griffin, 1955-

COUNTY CLERK:

Wm. Gorham, 1837-1838
Sam R. Miller, 1838-1839
Jas. M. Long, 1839-1840
Jas. H. Gillespie, 1840-1850
Wm. Dunbar, 1850-1856
Cicero Nash, 1856-1860
W. A. Highsmith, 1860-1864
C. B. Garwood, 1864-1865
H. H. Brown, 1865-1866
John M. Claiborne, 1866-1867
Joseph Glover, 1867-1868
R. F. Campbell, 1868-1874
J. M. Finney, 1874-1880
W. H. Grimes, 1880-1884
W. E. Jenkins, 1884-1900
Thos. P. Bishop, 1900-1904
W. H. Grimes, 1904-1910
H. H. Alexander, 1910-1918
Mrs. H. H. (Annie Lee) Alexander, 1918-1920
Tignal Jones, 1920-

COUNTY SHERIFF:

R. Vaughn, 1837-1838
James M. Long, 1838-1839
Prestin Conlie, 1839-1848
Mark M. Rogers, 1848-1850
F. M. McGehee, 1850-1851
John Hearn, 1851-1856
John J. Moncure, 1858-1859
R. R. Gill, 1859-1862
J. C. Wilkins, 1862-1863
J. H. Perkins, 1863-1865
Jas. Nicholson, 1865-1866
J. W. Sheppard, 1866
John Hearn, 1866
John P. Jones, 1866-1868
A. W. Fort, 1868-1869
J. Jung, 1869-1872
I. N. Baker, 1872-1873
John Kohler, 1873-1876
W. E. Jenkins, 1876-1884
W. J. Bell, 1884-1886
H. N. Bell, 1886-1890
G. W. Davis, 1890-1904
Woody Townsend, 1904-1914
E. H. Perkins, 1914-1925
Woody Townsend, 1925-1932
E. D. Cartwright, 1932-1953
I. R. Hoskins, 1953-

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

E. H. Petty, 1858-1866
R. H. Wells, 1866-1868
J. M. Thompson, 1868-1869
C. C. McGinnis, 1869
B. Trigg, 1869-1871
B. D. Orgain, 1871-1873
J. P. Fowler, 1873-1876
George D. Russell, 1876-1878
B. D. Orgain, 1878-1880
J. P. Fowler, 1880-1881
W. E. Maynard, 1881-1890
J. B. Price, 1890-1894
C. C. Highsmith, 1894-1898
Paul D. Page, 1898-1904
Jack Jenkins, 1904-1913
Powell C. Maynard, 1913-1915
J. H. Powell, 1915-1920
R. B. Alexander, 1920-1924
Leslie D. Williams, 1924-1930

C. B. Maynard, 1930-1932
J. P. Fowler, 1932-1936
C. W. Talbot, 1936-1942
Henry Sebesta, 1942-1949
C. W. Talbot, 1949-1952
James B. Kershaw, 1952-

TAX ASSESSOR:

James D. Young, 1876-1878
W. C. Lawhon, 1878-1882
George Vaughan, 1882-1886
E. J. Thompson, 1886-1900
W. H. Grimes, 1900-1904
J. H. Jones, 1904-1935

TAX COLLECTOR:

N. A. Morris, 1879-1882
Murray Burleson, 1882-1886
John S. Wilson, 1886-1904
J. A. Wilson, 1904
George Davis, 1904-1926
Mrs. George (Edna) Davis, 1926-1928
H. M. DeGlandon, 1928-1935

TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR:

Alexander D. Hunt, 1846-1848
William R. Reding, 1848-1850
A. B. Hemphill, 1850-1852
George Allen, 1852-1853
M. B. Highsmith, 1853-1857
R. N. Castleman, 1857-1862
George Allen, 1862-1867
Anton Pohl, 1867-1868
James B. Pope, 1868-1876
A. B. Reynolds, 1876-1879
J. H. Jones, 1935-1947
Mrs. Pat (Dula Bell) Webb, 1947-1953
Vernon Eskew, 1953-1955
Clyde Reynolds, 1955-

COUNTY TREASURER:

Samuel R. Miller, 1838-1846
James Nicholson, 1846
W. T. Gamble, 1846
James A. Poage, 1846-1851
Henry Cocheron, 1851-1853
N. W. Johnson, 1853-1854
W. B. Billingsley, 1856-1858
Sherman Reynolds, 1858-1865
John S. Johnson, 1865-1866
W. A. Standifer, 1866-1867
John S. Johnson, 1867-1873
W. A. Standifer, 1873-1874
J. C. Buchanan, 1874-1878
John Hearn, 1878-1891
C. R. Haynie, 1891-1904
C. Chalmers, 1904-1922
Mrs. (W. H.) Bessie Chalmers Warren, 1922-1925
Mrs. Lizzie Owens, 1925-1936
Mrs. Gem Simmons, 1936-1955
Mrs. Lemma Osborn, 1955

DISTRICT CLERK:

Greenlief Fisk, 1837-1838
William Greeson, 1838-1847
James P. Wallace, 1847-1855
H. S. Morgan, 1855-1860
J. C. Buchanan, 1860-1865
Joseph Keifer, 1865-1866
J. C. Buchanan, 1866-1869
Wm. Spitler, 1869-1870
R. F. Campbell, 1870-1874
John F. Finney, 1874-1876
George R. Allen, 1876-1878
C. B. Maynard, 1878-1888
Walter H. Murchison, 1900-1904
Thos. H. Parks, 1904-1911
R. J. Griesenbeck, 1911-1912
Lee Olive, 1912-1915
Hartford Jenkins, 1915-1932
Vernon Eskew, 1932-1943
Mrs. Vernon (Gail) Eskew, 1943-1946
Vernon Eskew, 1946-1953
M. B. Perkins, 1953-

COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:

Hartford Jenkins, 1907-1910
T. N. Powell, 1910-1920
Fred G. Haynie, 1920-

Bluebonnet, Pecan And Mocking Bird Represent Texas

The Texas flower is the bluebonnet, by legislative enactment in 1901.

The state tree is the pecan. This graceful and fruitful tree, which grows more abundantly in Texas than in any other part of the world, probably owes its recognition as the "State Tree" principally to the request of the famous Governor James Stephen Hogg that the pecan be planted at his grave.

The mockingbird has been selected by legislative resolution as the "State Bird".

Union Aid Bible Class Open To All Faiths

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

The Union Aid Bible Class which originated some seventy years ago is a society open to all religious faiths, according to Mrs. Helen Prokop, with its main purpose being the Bible Study and to serve any worth while causes. Meetings are held in members' homes once a month.

Present members are Mrs. J. G. Bryson, president, Mrs. Helen Prokop, vice-president; Mrs. J. R. Pfeiffer, secretary; Mrs. Fred Moore, treasurer; Mrs. R. J. Brieger, Mrs. Pauline Dolgener, Miss Dorothy Bryson, Mrs. Gus Keil, Mrs. A. A. Schilling, Mrs. H. C. Wertzner, Mrs. Otto Laake, Miss Esther Anderson, Mrs. Otto Gest, Mrs. Robert Kunschick, Mrs. J. G. Lock, Mrs. Willis Miley, Mrs. V. E. Striegler, Mrs. Bertie Holden, Mrs. J. S. Holme, and an honorary member, Mrs. Eva Hill LeSueur Karling.

Bastrop Men Among Those Who Defended The Alamo

By Grace Fitzwilliam

Amelia W. Williams, who has made a study of the siege of the Alamo and the personnel of its defenders and has published a part of her study in the "Southwestern Historical Quarterly", lists four Bastrop men among those who died at the Alamo. They are as follows:

Ballentine, John J., private, resident of Bastrop. Norcross (Northcross) James, private, 32, born in Virginia, a resident of Bastrop, Texas.

Smith, Joshua G., private, 28, born in North Carolina, resided at Bastrop, Texas.

Warnell, Henry, private, 24, came to Texas from Arkansas, was a resident of Bastrop.

About Henry Warnell, she writes, "He arrived in January, 1835, and hired himself to Edward Burleson at whose home he lived . . . The Court of Claims document further describes him as being 24 years old, small, weighing 118 pounds, blue-eyed, red-headed, freckled, and an 'incessant tobacco chewer'. It also states that he had been a jockey and a great hunter in Arkansas." Edward Burleson was the administrator of Warnell's estate. Warnell's wife had died in Arkansas in November, 1834, leaving an infant son, John.

Colorado River Freezes Over In 1899

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

On February 12, 1899, according to Mrs. Helen Prokop, the Colorado River froze over at Bastrop during a ten below zero freeze.

The entire student body of the Bastrop Public Schools went ice-skating on the river, accompanied by Professor W. A. Palmer, Mrs. O. P. Jones, Miss Margaret Kirk and Miss Susana Kirk.

Casino Served As School And Amusement Center

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

The Casino, which still stands on Farm Street near the railroad tracks, housed Bastrop's first school, Mrs. Helen Prokop pointed out, as she told about the entertainment they had there when it was an amusement center where all social events were held.

The Casino was organized and built by 13 members, including Governor Joseph D. Sayers, John Kennedy, Bill Higgins, T. A. Hasler, Maurice Gloeckner, A. J. Knittle, A. Bauhoff, Anton Jung, George Schaefer, Mr. Linke, Fred Keil, Mr. Theleman and Joe Keil. Membership soon included almost every citizen in town. The last family to occupy the Casino was Mr. and Mrs. George Schaefer Sr.

Band Wagon Familiar Sight In Early Days

By Mrs. Kenneth Davis

The Bastrop City Band was directed by A. Prause, and rode down Main Street in a wagon drawn by four white horses, Mrs. Helen Prokop said, as she described a familiar sight in the early days of Bastrop. The band wagon was owned and driven by Rufus Green, with Allie Reynolds serving as substitute driver.

The band was composed of A. Prause, E. E. Schuelke, Maurice Gloeckner, P. O. Elzner, Alf Jung, Gus Jung, Albert Prause, Bruno Elzner, A. A. Elzner, George Miller and A. J. Knittle, who played for all occasions.